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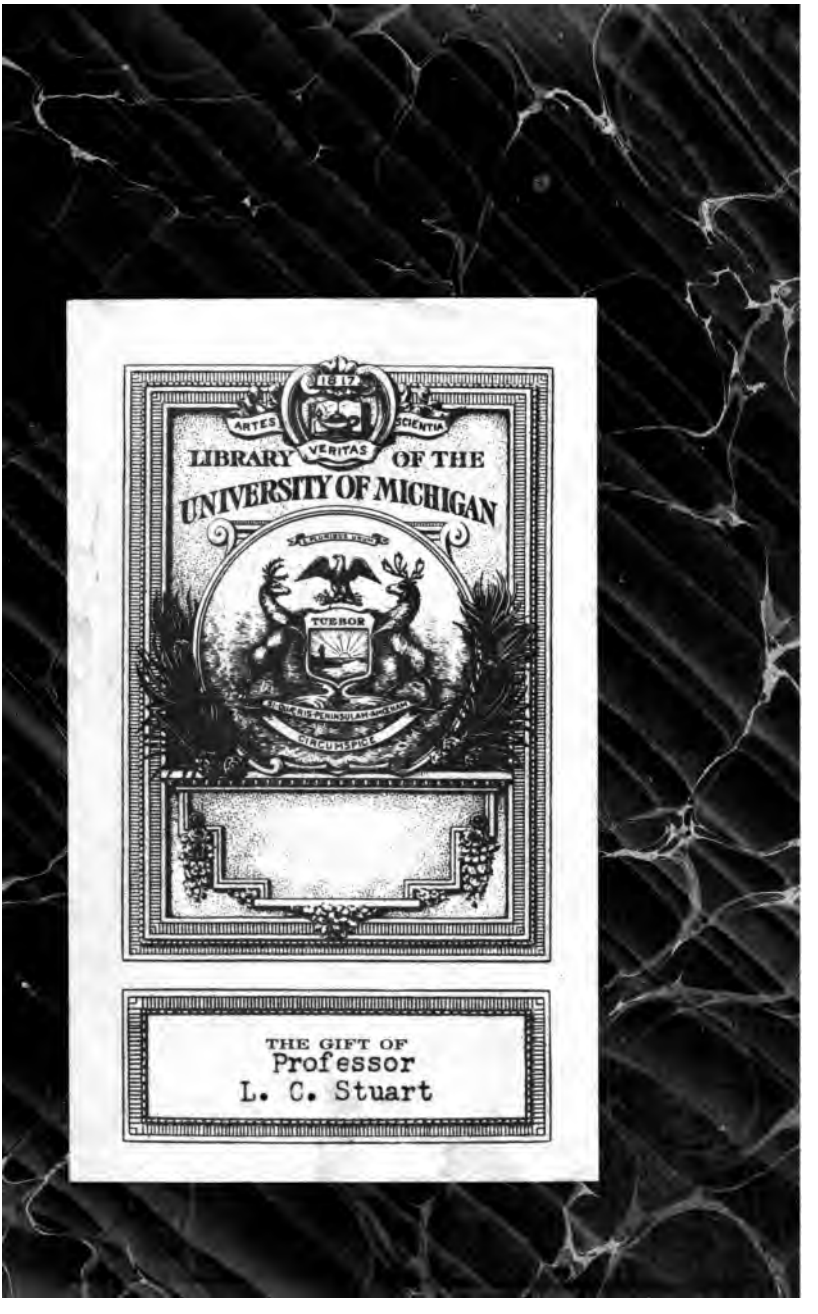
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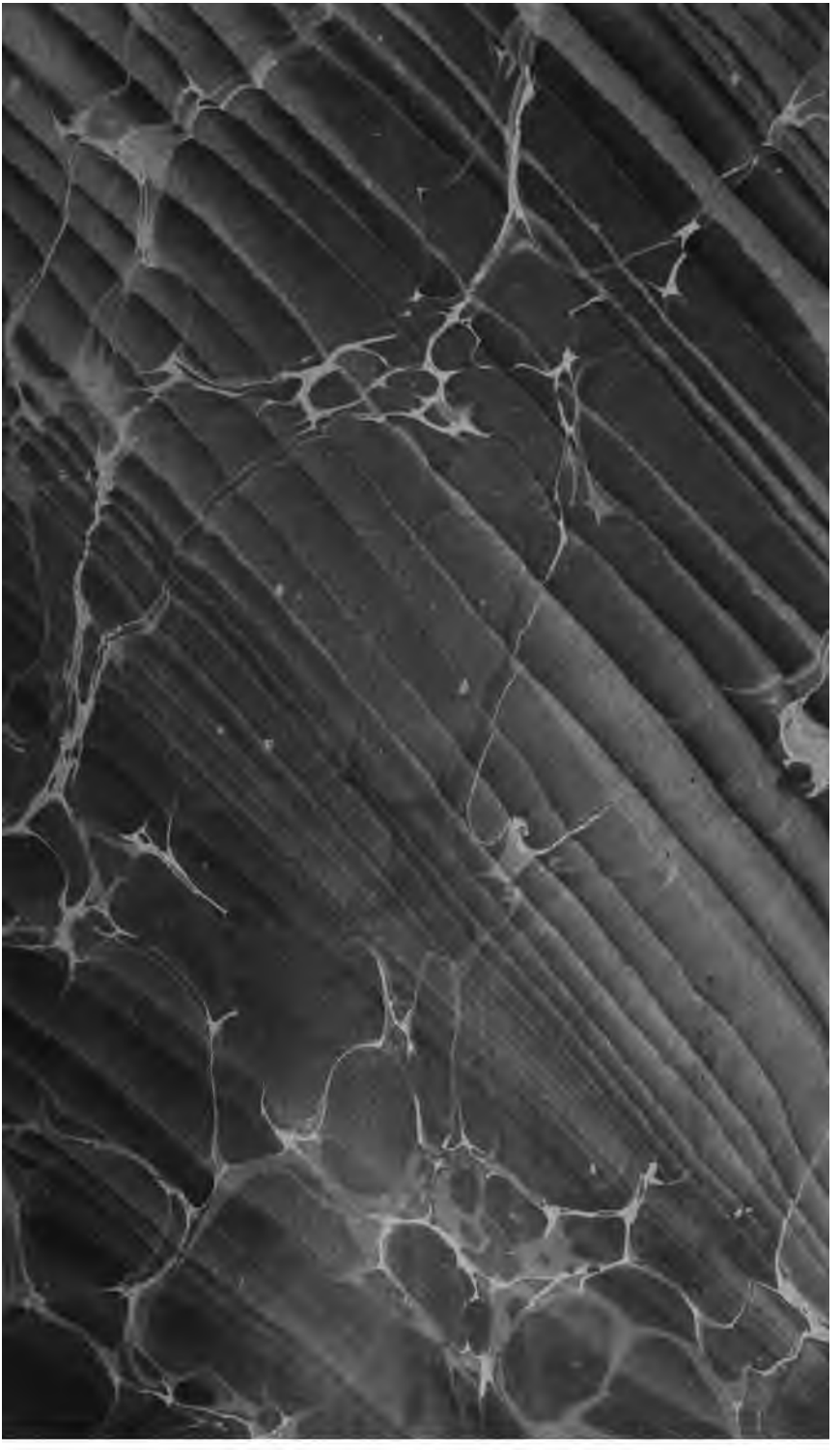

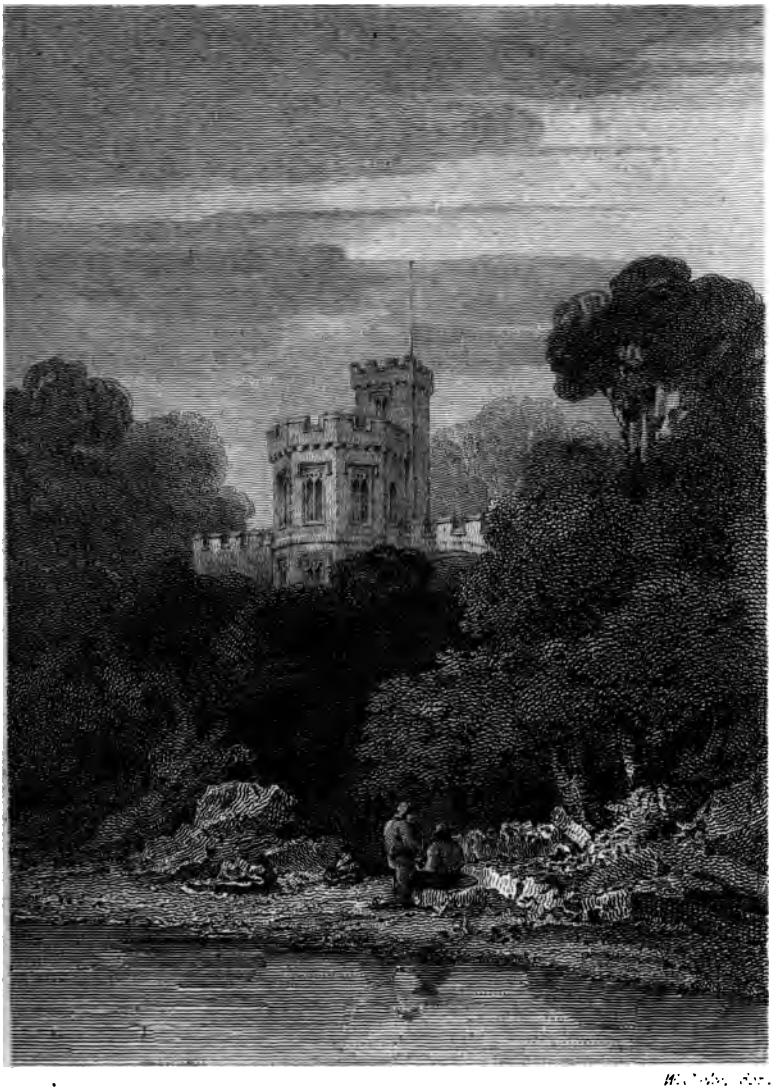

W. Tombleson, Sculpt.

The Marine,

Near Ryde, Isle of Wight.

London, Published by Jones & Co. Finsbury Square.

A

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ILLUSTRATED

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1808.

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CONTENTS.

Page

PREFACE vii
List of Plates xiii

INTRODUCTORY ACCOUNT.

Its Name 1
Its Situation 2
Its Extent 4
Its Form 5
Its Boundaries 5
Divisions 6
East and West Medine 7
Population 8
Soil 8
Air 9
Fertility 9
Appearance 11
Military History 12
Civil History 14
Governors 15
PRINCIPAL TOWNS.—Newport 17
House of Industry 23
Barracks 24

Page

Signal Posts and Military Defence 26
Newtown 27
Yarmouth 28
Ryde 30
West Cowes 32
East Cowes 34
Carisbrook Castle 35
Ecclesiastical Antiquities 37
Natural History 38
Learned Men 40

THE PLATES, WITH DESCRIPTIONS.

Carisbrook Castle, taken from the Village of Carisbrook 45
Gateway to Carisbrook Castle 48
Carisbrook Village, taken from the Terrace of the Castle 54
Rocks in Freshwater Bay 56
Arched Rock in Freshwater Bay 57
Freshwater Bay and Cliffs 58
Freshwater Cave 63
Allum Bay, and the Needles; from the Rabbit Warren . 66
Needles; from Scratchell's Bay 67
Light-House, on Freshwater Cliffs 69
Farringford Hill, the Seat of Ed. Rushworth, Esq. . . . 70
Norton Lodge, the Residence of Captain Hammond . . 72
Shalfleet Church 74
Swainston, the Seat of Sir John Barrington, Bart. . . . 75
Fern Hill, the Seat of Mrs. Shute, midway betwixt Newport and Ryde 77
Binstead Cottage 80
Appley, the Seat of Captain Hutt 83
St. John's, the Seat of Edward Simeon, Esq. 86
The Marina. St. John's 89

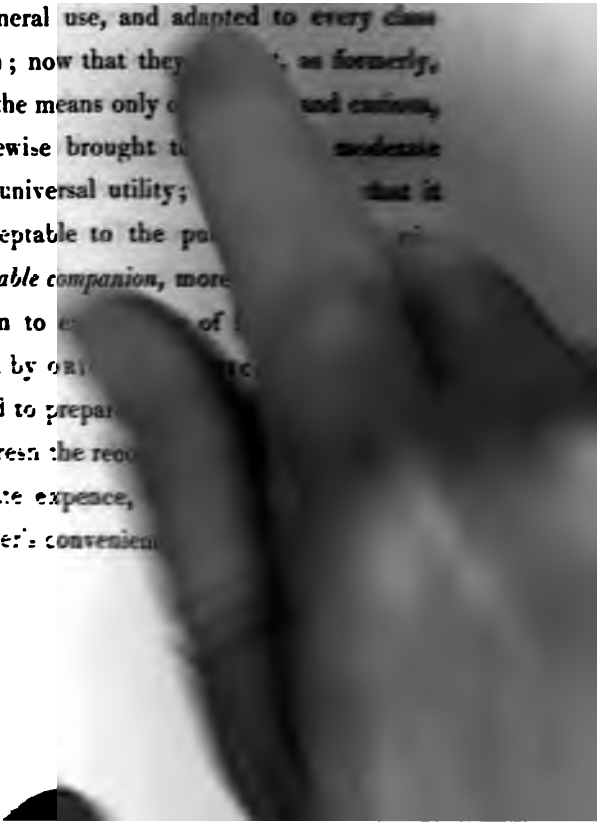
Page
Lodge, or Cottage Entrance to St. John's 90
The Priory; Seat of Sir Nash Grose, Knt. (a Judge of the Court of King's Bench) 93
Niton 96
Undercliff 98
Mirables, the Villa of Mrs. Arnold 102
Marine Villa of the late Sir Richard Worsley, Bart. . . 104
Steephill, the Cottage Villa of the Earl of Dysart . . . 106
St. Boniface; Villa of Thomas Bowdler, Esq. 109
Ventnor Cove 111
Bonchurch Village, taken from Mr. Hadfield's Look-out 113
Shanklin Chine, looking inwards 116
Shanklin Chine, looking outwards 121
Brading Church 123
Gatcombe House, the Seat of Colonel Campbell . . . 126
Black Gang Chine, looking outwards 127
Black Gang Chine, from the Beach 130
Appuldurcombe 132
Cowes Castle and Harbour 134
Westhill Cottage, near Cowes, late General Whitelock's 137
Cottage at East Cowes 139
East Cowes Castle; Villa of J. Nash, Esq. 140
Norris, the Seat of Lord Henry Seymour 143
VOYAGE ROUND THE ISLAND 147

ROUTES OF THE ISLAND.

Western Tour 165
North Eastern Tour 167
Southern Tour 168
Another Southern Tour 170
Index 173

as to the distribution of the usual tours, and ... most of the necessary information as to the ... eral.

t this period, however, of increased taste for the pleasures of travelling, when the beauties of ire are more eagerly sought, and more eagerly hed; when a love of the arts so generally pre-, and they in return are so much accommo-d to general use, and adapted to every class situation; now that they ... as formerly, fined to the means only ... and curious, are likewise brought ... moderate dard of universal utility; ... that it be acceptable to the po... *que portable companion*, more attention to ... of ng them by or... ise tend to prepar... s to refresh the rec... moderate expence, ... traveller's convenien...



the invalid and votary of Hygeia; add to which, its position, in a military and commercial point of view; the station, in its vicinity, of a great part of the British navy; the periodical rendezvous of outward-bound shipping to all parts of the globe; and, lastly, the grand depot for recruits, whence the whole army is afterwards supplied. From all these causes, a greater influx of strangers is to be expected here, than in any other part of the kingdom; and this succession of visitors continues in some degree throughout the year.

In the summer and autumn this island has become a resort for the purpose of sea-bathing. The two great stations for this purpose, Cowes and Ryde, are often filled even to an overflow; though their buildings are still rapidly increasing, and they continue to multiply every accommodation.

The traveller, of whatever class, amongst this numerous assemblage, is here, as in every other situation of similar resort, furnished by his portable companion or guide, with suitable directions

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The present plan, from the peculiar style of the ENGRAVINGS, and *the selection of the subjects*, may, it is thought, prove more generally useful; and, without wishing to interfere with any prior publication, will, it is hoped, be found to afford some additional convenience and amusement to the frequenters and admirers of this beautiful island.

Some apology is due to the proprietors of those seats which are omitted, several of which are most respectable, and finely situated. They will be pleased to reflect, that within the limited bounds which we have prescribed ourselves, some line must be drawn, and those are noticed which have attracted the greatest attention. The *churches* also are so numerous, that there was great difficulty of selection; besides, they have already appeared in works upon a larger scale and of greater dimensions. We therefore look with humble confidence to the utility of this attempt, the object of which is to generate a due impression of the beauty and value of this portion of BRITISH DOMESTIC SCENERY.

We have passed over *North Court House*, the seat of Miss Bull, because it has been fully delineated by others; and with respect to the few descriptions in the following pages, that are unaccompanied with *Plates*, the Editor was unwilling that they should be altogether unnoticed in the present publication.

LIST OF PLATES.

	Page
MARINA (Frontispiece)	
Carisbrook Castle	45
Gateway to Carisbrook Castle	48
Carisbrook Village	54
Rocks in Freshwater Bay	56
Arched Rock in Freshwater Bay	57
Freshwater Bay and Cliffs	58
Needles, from Scratchell's Bay	67
Light House on Freshwater Cliffs	69
Farringford Hill, Seat of E. Rushworth, Esq.	70
Shalfleet Church	74
Swainston, Seat of Sir John Barrington, Bart.	75
Fernhill, Seat of Mrs. Shute	77
Binstead Cottage and Church	80
Appley, Seat of Captain Hutt	83
St. John's, Seat of Edward Simeon, Esq.	86
Lodge, or Cottage Entrance to St. John's	90
The Priory, Seat of Sir Nash Grose	93
Niton	96
Undercliff	98
Mirables	102
Marine Villa of the late Sir Richard Worsley, Bart.	104
Steephill Cottage, Seat of the Earl of Dysart	106
St. Boniface, Seat of Thomas Bowdler, Esq.	109

Page

Bonchurch Village 113
Shanklin Chine, looking inwards 116
Shanklin Chine, looking outwards 121
Gatcombe House and Church 126
Blackgang Chine, looking outwards 127
Blackgang Chine, from the Beach 130
Appuldurcombe 132
Cowes Castle and Harbour 134
Westhill Cottage, near Cowes, Seat of the late General Whitelock 137
Cottage at East Cowes 139
East Cowes Castle, Seat of J. Nash, Esq. 140
Norris, Seat of Lord Henry Seymour 143
Map of the Isle of Wight 165

INTRODUCTORY ACCOUNT

OF

THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

A SKETCH of this beautiful little island will be gratifying to the curiosity. It is not our design to enter into a minute delineation of it; but its general outline shall be given with distinctness and brevity.

ITS NAME.

It has not yet been determined by antiquaries whether this spot was anciently entitled to the appellation of *island* or *peninsula*. Be this as it may, the Romans called it *Vecta* or *Vectis*. Others,

however, contend, that the word *Wight* is derived from the old British word *Guith*, a breach or division; imagining that it was in former times separated from the main land. But some, nevertheless, have derived the name *Wight* from VECTIS, by the whimsical changes of spelling or pronunciation, not unusual in barbarous times. And this conjecture receives some support from the consideration that the island is called *Wect*, *With*, or *Wict*, in the Doomsday Book. Such are the speculations which have been entertained respecting its name, and the reader is left to form his own judgment on the subject.

ITS SITUATION.

The Isle of Wight lies opposite the southern coast of England, and nearly at an equal distance from the two extremities, Dover and the Land's End. It is included in the county of Hants, and is situated not far from the main land. The strait which separates it is of unequal breadth, being

about one mile over towards the western extremity, opposite Christ-church, and about seven miles over at the eastern extremity facing Portsmouth. This body of water, which constitutes the separation, is usually denominated the *Solent* Sea, perhaps from the Latin term *solvendo*, indicating its property of loosening or separating the two opposite shores. For there is a tradition that here was once a complete isthmus. The story indeed is, that the Carthaginians who, in their prosperity, engrossed much of the commerce of those times, had settlements in the Scilly islands: that buying up the tin of Cornwall, they conveyed it by the above isthmus to the south of the Isle of Wight; thence transporting it into Gaul, and also to the ports of the Mediterranean, as well as to the rest of the world.

That the island was once a part of the main land, is contended for by the Rev. W. Gilpin in these words:—"As we entered Lymington river we found a fresh proof of the probability of the ancient union of *Vectis* with the main. The tide was gone, and had left vast stretches of ooze along the deserted shores. Here we saw lying on the right a huge

stump of a tree, which our boatman informed us had been dragged out of the water. He assured us also, that the roots of oaks and other trees were often found on these banks of mud; which seems still to strengthen the opinion, that all this part of the coast, now covered with the tide, had once been forest land." And it has also been remarked in Sir Richard Worsley's History of the Island, that "a hard gravelly beach extends a great way across from the isle towards the coast of Hampshire, about mid-way from the extremity of the channel." This, it is conjectured, was the original *isthmus*, by which means the tin was conveyed to the Isle of Wight.

ITS EXTENT.

The length of *the Isle of Wight* is about *twenty-four* miles, and its central breadth nearly *fourteen*. The whole is of an elliptical form, though very irregular, and is deemed about *sixty* miles in circumference. According to these dimensions, it should contain 200 square miles, and upwards of 100,000 acres of land.

ITS FORM.

Various comparisons have been employed to give the reader a just idea of the form of this island. A bird's-eye view of it would soon determine the matter. The favourite similes have been—that of its resembling either a *lengthened lozenge*, or a *bird with expanded wings!* There may be something fanciful in all this; but the association of our ideas cannot be resisted, and therefore we are insensibly led to entertain some idea, either true or false, on the subject.

ITS BOUNDARIES.

On the north flows the *Solent* Sea separating the island from Hampshire, and on the south is seen the British Channel, which has the appearance of the unbounded ocean. The coast opposite, though not visible to the eye, is France, at a very considerable distance. It is encompassed with rocks, those barriers of nature, especially on the south-

ern side, the most noted of which are the *Shingles* and the *Needles*, in the western extremity. On the other sides the island is protected by cliffs of chalk and free-stone. Hence in certain parts it is inaccessible; but where the shore is level, as is found to be the case towards the south-east, it is fortified by castles, forts, and block-houses. But art in this, as well as in other cases, yields to nature the palm of superiority.

DIVISIONS.

The island is distributed into two hundreds, called the *East* and *West Medine*, separated by the course of the river *Medine*, rising near the bottom of St. Catherine's Downs, runs northward, and flows into the Solent Sea.

EAST MEDINE

Consists of fourteen parishes:

Brading,	Wooton,
Yaverland,	Whippingham,
Shanklin,	Arreton,
Bonchurch,	Godshill,
St. Helens,	St. Lawrence,
Newchurch,	Whitwell,
Binstead,	Niton.

WEST MEDINE

Contains sixteen parishes:

Northwood,	Brixton,
Carisbrooke,	Calbourn,
St. Nicholas,	Motteston,
Gatcombe,	Brooke,
Chale,	Shalfleet,
Kingston,	Thorley,
Shorwell,	Yarmouth, and
Newport,	Freshwater.

POPULATION.

This was ascertained in the year 1802, and the number of inhabitants was found to be *twenty-two thousand six hundred and two* souls. It would be useless to assign the number of individuals in each parish; for the tourist wishes to form a general idea of the subject, and not to enter into those particulars which are chiefly a parochial concern, or at least relate to the interior government of the island.

SOIL.

The soil of the island has an uncommon degree of variety, not only in different districts, but sometimes in the same district. It has been remarked that, in many parts at least, the soil is gravelly, in others flinty; but its general character is a strong loamy earth, well calculated for agricultural purposes. Marle, chalk, fuller's-earth, tobaccopipe-clay, different kinds of stones, and various sands are to be met with in this island. Nor must we

omit to mention a fine sand found in the parish of Freshwater, esteemed superior to any other in the kingdom, and on this account is used in considerable quantities for the glass and porcelain manufactories of London, Bristol, and Worcester. A large portion of *allum* is also procured from Alum Bay.

AIR.

The air has long had the character of salubrity. Hence the longevity of the inhabitants is well known, and their general appearance bears testimony to this truth. Indeed the frequent resort of valetudinarians to this part of Britain, is an unequivocal proof that it is deemed favourable to health and enjoyment.

FERTILITY.

This (without meaning any pun) is a fertile topic, and we must extend the article to some length;

for when we talk of the fertility of any particular region, we must remember that it embraces a variety of subjects. Farms here are from 100*l.* to 400*l.* per annum, though a few reach to near 1000*l.* per annum. The species of grain generally raised are *wheat, barley, oats, beans, and pease.* The *potatoe,* that excellent nutritious root (brought originally from America by Sir Walter Raleigh in the reign of Queen Elizabeth), it is thought might be here cultivated to advantage; and at Portsmouth a ready sale might be found for so desirable an article: at the same time such a species of produce would be acceptable to the inhabitants of the island.

As to the green crops, they are chiefly *turnips, clover, vetches, rye-grass,* and *trefoil.* We hear the pasture and meadow-land much praised for its richness; a particular proof of which is, that an acre will produce two or three tons of fine hay. The Isle of Wight has not unfrequently been styled the *garden of England.*

As to ANIMALS—the *sheep* annually shorn have been rated at 40,000; and not less than 5000 lambs

have been sold in one year to the London butchers. The *cows* are principally of the Alderney breed, though mixed with others of English complexion. The *horses* are large, and considerable pains have been taken to improve them. The *game* of the island may be termed plentiful, particularly *hares, partridges, pheasants, lapwings,* and no small variety of wild fowl.

The FISH are in abundance, and of prime quality. The southern side of the island has such quantity of *shell-fish,* that a village has obtained the appellation of *Crab-Niton,* on account of the great quantity of crabs caught in its vicinity.

APPEARANCE.

The general appearance of the island is highly favourable, being marked by an endless variety. Rich and picturesque, it possesses innumerable attractions. Indeed no description can do it adequate justice. Timber was formerly plentiful here, but the dockyards have effectually thinned it. The

oak and *elm* mostly abound in the island. The only waste land is *Parkhurst* or *Carisbrooke-Forest*; and in the eastern parts are tracts of marshy land, covered at high tides by the sea, the largest of which is *Brading Haven.* Indeed, in this highly favoured spot, we meet every where with the most exhilarating prospects; for in the summer season—

> ——————The roving sight
> Pursues its pleasing course o'er neighbouring hills
> Of many a different form and different hue;
> Bright with ripe corn, or green with grass,
> Or dark with clover's purple bloom!
>
> SCOTT.

MILITARY HISTORY.

Little or nothing is known of this island previous to the Conquest. For it is somewhat remarkable, that though this part of Britain was equally exposed with other parts to the incursions of the Romans, yet there are to be here found none of those encampments so frequently discovered in other parts of the kingdom. At the CONQUEST, however, it

is spoken of as a place of defence; and in the reign of *Edward the Third* the inhabitants nobly repelled a band of French invaders. Indeed the French appear to have been very troublesome in succeeding reigns, particularly in the time of *Richard the Second,* when a party of them, besieging Carisbrook Castle, were cut off, and buried at a spot near Newport, afterwards called, by way of derision, *Noddle's Hill.* During the civil wars between the Houses of York and Lancaster, the island enjoyed profound tranquillity. In the reign of *Henry the Eighth,* the French intended to have invaded the kingdom; but not having been able to effect a landing, they sent *two thousand* men to ravage this island. But RICHARD WORSLEY, *the governor of the island,* collecting a sufficient force, drove them back to their ships in the greatest disorder and confusion.

However, such was the sense of danger excited by these inroads, that it was thought to be full time for the inhabitants to guard against similar depredations. Forts were, therefore, immediately built, to prevent the landing of the enemy. *Wors-*

ley Tower, directly opposite to Hurst Castle, was the principal of those erected on the occasion; and it was thus called, on account of the bravery of the governor already mentioned—a deed that ought to be handed down to posterity! Other castles and places of defence were raised, which shall be mentioned in a future part of this narrative. These structures, however imperfect may be their remains, indicate the former turbulent and warlike condition of our country.

From the time of *Henry the Eighth* the military history of the island becomes incorporated with the general history of the kingdom.

CIVIL HISTORY.

Here again we must begin with the CONQUEST; for the particulars presented to us previous to that memorable period, are entitled to little or no attention. It ought to be mentioned, that the tyrant William (*conqueror* and *tyrant* are nearly *synonymous* terms), assigned this island to a relative, *Wil-*

liam Fitzborne, who had made a conspicuous figure in the battle of Hastings. He was to hold this island "as freely as the Conqueror held the realm of England!" After some changes it became the private property of the kings of England. They granted it to their favourites with all the capriciousness of favouritism. One of its lords, the Duke of Warwick, was crowned King of the Isle of Wight! But *Henry the Seventh* resumed the jurisdiction of the island; and it has ever since been deemed part of the dominions of the crown, subject and unalienable as the rest of the kingdom.

GOVERNORS.

We mention *governors* in a distinct paragraph, because this was the period when they originated. And during the reign of *George the Third* the governors have been Thomas Lord Holmes, Hans Stanley, Esq. Harry Duke of Bolton, Sir Richard Worsley, Lord Bolton, and Lord Fitzharris, eldest son of the Earl of Malmsbury, who now fills that

situation. A curious instance of the arbitrary powers of these gentlemen in former times is the following, taken from *Sir John Oglander's* Memoirs: —" I have heard, and partly know it to be true, that not only heretofore there was no lawyer or attorney in our island; but in Sir George Carey's time (captain of the island in the time of Elizabeth), an attorney coming to settle in the island, was, with *a pound of candles* hanging at his heels, lighted, with bells about his legs, hunted out of the island; insomuch, as our ancestors lived here so quietly and securely, being neither troubled to London or Winchester, so they seldom or never went out of the island—insomuch, as when they went to London, thinking it an East India voyage, they always made their wills, supposing no trouble like to travail."— Nor must we omit to mention, that old Fuller remarks, that there was an old proverb, that *the Isle of Wight* hath no *monks, lawyers,* nor *foxes!* But then he wittily adds, that the saying " hath *more of mirth than truth in it!*" The late Captain Grose, with his characteristic humour, observes, respecting this self-same proverb, that it was very impro-

bable that there should be a fertile, healthy, and pleasant spot without *monks*—a rich place without *lawyers*—and a country, abounding with lambs and poultry of every kind, without *foxes!*

PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

NEWPORT.

Newport is by far the first town in the island. It was incorporated in the reign of James the First; though even in the time of Edward the First it sent members to parliament. The corporation, which consists of a mayor, recorder, ten aldermen, and twelve burgesses, have the right of election. This town is well fitted to be termed the principal, not only on account of its size, but also its central situation. It is watered on every side by copious streams, which turn corn-mills, uniting in a point below the town, which is called a quay. The Town-hall is large, and the streets cross each other at right angles: they are clean and well paved. In

the Town-hall is held the *Curia Militum*, or Knight's Court; over which presides the steward of the governor of the island. Such is its antiquity, that it is supposed to have originated at the Conquest. The Free Grammar-school was erected in 1619, and is well conducted: it is a plain stone building, with commodious apartments. In the school-room Charles the First, in the year 1648, attempted his last treaty with the parliament. Here are other schools of considerable respectability. And we mention this circumstance with pleasure, because the education of youth lies at the foundation of private, social, and public prosperity. The enemy of knowledge is uniformly the slave of bigotry and superstition.—As to the number of inhabitants in Newport, they, in the year 1802, were computed to be 3585; and the houses amounted to near a thousand, of every description. The markets, held twice a week (on Wednesday and Saturday), abound with provisions; and corn has been sold even to the quantity of 1400 quarters, the greatest part of which was manufactured in the island. The church is of great antiquity, very spacious, and at different periods has

received various improvements. The pulpit, a precious relic of antiquity, exhibits a representation of the liberal sciences, and of the cardinal virtues! The date of its erection is 1636, and its whole appearance is entitled to attention. Among its monuments, which are handsome, is that of Sir Edward Horsey. Here also lies the PRINCESS ELIZABETH, second daughter of CHARLES THE FIRST. In the year 1793, an arched vault was found, with a stone with the initials E. S. *(Elizabeth Stuart)*, marking the place of her interment. But what puts the circumstance beyond doubt was, that the coffin had this inscription upon it:—

ELIZABETH,
Second daughter of the late King Charles,
Deceased Sept. 8, 1650.

She breathed her last within the walls of Carisbrooke Castle; for we are assured upon the best authority, that the unfortunate Charles's family were confined in that fortress after his execution. Such is the

evanescent nature of human grandeur. *Sic transit gloria mundi!*

The *cemetery* belonging to the church is at some little distance, and of considerable extent. It is Bunhill-fields in miniature; for it contains the mortal remains of all denominations. Here, of course, is to be found a variety of tomb-stones, and a proportional quantity of elegiac poetry. The author of this narrative passed some pensive moments in this repository of the dead. The doctrine of the *resurrection* alone realizes the full hopes and glorious expectations of our common Christianity—

> *Grave*, the guardian of our dust;
> *Grave*, the treasury of the skies;
> Every atom of thy trust
> Rests in hope again to rise!
> Hark! the judgment-trumpet calls,
> Soul—rebuild thine house of clay—
> IMMORTALITY—thy walls—
> And ETERNITY—thy day!
>
> MONTGOMERY.

The dissenters are numerous and respectable in

this town. Here is a meeting-house belonging to the Independents, of a considerable size, fitted up with an appropriate neatness: and here is likewise a neat small place belonging to the *General Baptists*, with a well-toned organ. This chapel has a rural appearance; the foliage of the vine winds itself along the upper part of its windows, and the building being removed from the public street, is found favourable to the solemnity and tranquillity of public worship. It is respectably attended. Its former minister was the *Rev. John Sturch*, a venerable and worthy character, who wrote an interesting account of the island in a series of letters, and to which publication the author of this narrative feels much indebted. Both Wesley and Lady Huntingdon have chapels in the town, and there is an elegant Roman Catholic chapel; so that it may be said, that here are found the principal sects and denominations of the Christian world.

As to the town of Newport in general, we may adopt the words of *Mr. Sturch*:—" There are few places where independence may meet with more sources of rational enjoyment, or where virtuous in-

dustry is better rewarded than in this clean, healthful, and elegant town. Its streets are open and airy, its buildings neat and convenient, its environs pleasant, its provisions good and plentiful, and its inhabitants friendly and sociable."

By ascending any of the neighbouring hills, a fine view may be obtained of *Newport*: it makes a respectable appearance, and acquires an additional interest from its occupying a central situation in the island. The author of this narrative enjoyed this view one evening about two years ago, in the month of July, just at that moment when the sun, shorn of its rays, was sinking in the western horizon, leaving the world enveloped in the shades of night!

> *Now* fades the glimmering landscape on the sight,
> And all the air a solemn stillness holds,
> Save where the beetle wheels its dronish flight,
> And drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds!

We returned to Newport with a kind of pensive gratification. We had contemplated one of the richest landscapes that Britain could present to our

view; we meditated on the wisdom and goodness of the Supreme Being, who, by the alternate succession of day and night, has thus promoted the repose and happiness of mankind!

HOUSE OF INDUSTRY.

This building is erected on *Parkhurst Forest*, eighty acres having been granted for this purpose by parliament. The breadth of the front is three hundred feet; and the windows are so constructed as to ensure a more thorough ventilation. Besides a numerous suit of accommodations for the inhabitants, there is a chapel, a pest-house, a house for the small-pox, cells for delinquents, and a place of interment. No building could have been better constructed—it will contain seven hundred persons: and we are happy that this institution has not been matter of mere speculation; it has been productive of substantial advantages to the island. The affairs of the poor are in many parts of the kingdom wretchedly managed. It were well that other dis-

tricts would attend to this *House of Industry;* for our paupers are too often the children of indolence and profligacy.

BARRACKS.

Not far from the House of Industry stand the *barracks,* built about the year 1800. They are a *depot* for recruits which used to be formerly at Chatham, where they easily escaped by means of the river Medway, and effectually concealed themselves in the overgrown metropolis of the British empire. Twelve hundred feet by seven hundred, is the extent of ground occupied by the barracks, which have every possible accommodation. Near it is the *hospital,* containing a number of convenient wards; and nothing is wanting for the recovery and comfort of its afflicted inhabitants. The total inclosure of the barracks and hospital contains one hundred acres, encircled with a large plantation. A spot is near with an erected gallows, the common place of execution. There are other barracks on a much smaller scale in many parts of the island,

We cannot quit NEWPORT and its vicinity without just mentioning, that there is a commodious *theatre*, two assembly rooms, and other places of amusement. The INNS are large and respectable, presenting the wearied traveller with every species of accommodation.

Indeed, with respect to NEWPORT, it is so pleasing and populous a town, that many things may be written respecting it, which, to a stranger, might appear to exceed the bounds of credibility. When walking in the evening through the principal streets, it is full of bustle and activity; and the shops, spacious and well furnished, remind you of Cheapside. Removed, therefore, as the inhabitants are from the main land, they are nevertheless in possession of every comfort; and share no small portion of that general felicity which the Supreme Being, in his infinite goodness, has allotted to mankind.

We may also just add, that "those who are disposed to survey the whole island, commonly fix their head-quarters at Newport, from the certainty of procuring lodging. In this case *three* principal routes are laid down, denominated, from their re

spective courses, the *western*, the *north-eastern*, and the *south-eastern*. These, with a few shorter trips, include all the scenery and objects worthy of inspection in the island, and may be travelled over in five or six days; though the roads are very indifferent, and in some parts absolutely impassable for carriages, except in the finest weather. This probably arises from the roads being repaired by statute law, as there are no turnpikes throughout the island!" But on this subject more shall be said in another part of the work.

SIGNAL POSTS AND MILITARY DEFENCE.

The *signal posts* are on Nunwell Down, Wroxall Down, Needles, and Newwater Hill, in Parkhurst Forest. The Isle of Wight is said to contain *three thousand* volunteers, consisting of three battalions, in addition to a squadron of horse, and about five hundred sea-fencibles. We are not, therefore, to be surprised at the character which old Camden gave it in former times, when he said, that "the

inhabitants were naturally courageous; and that, be the service that they are put upon what it will, they are masters of it!"

NEWTOWN.

This town derives its name from the circumstance of its being rebuilt after its destruction by the French in the reign of Richard the Second. It is very small, reduced to about a dozen *cottages*, though it was formerly of considerable extent, and is deemed to be one of the most ancient places in the island. The town-hall stands on an eminence, overlooking the harbour. In the principal room are oaken chairs, curiously carved in the time of Queen Bess of prosperous memory. It has a chapel to the mother church. The haven is the best in the island. At high-water vessels of a considerable number of tons may ride with the utmost safety. The town has a corporation of mayor and burgesses; but what is somewhat remarkable, this body does not consist of the inhabitants, but of the proprietors

of certain tenures, which entitle them to a vote in the election of two members of parliament. Thus, like Old Sarum, it has its portion in the legislative energies of Great Britain.

YARMOUTH.

This town receives its name from its situation, standing at the mouth of the river *Yare*. It has Lymington on its opposite coast, and lies toward the western part of the island. Sending two members to parliament, the right of election is in the mayor and twelve burgesses. Here are several streets—three good inns, the most spacious of them being near the quay. This formerly was the mansion of *Lord Holmes*, when governor of this island; and here that nobleman entertained CHARLES the SECOND upon his visit to the town. There is a constant resort of passengers to and from Lymington. Here is a castle built by Henry the Eighth, the expences of which were paid out of the religious houses which this tyrannical monarch had dissolved. The platform has near a dozen guns, which com-

mand the narrow channel which here divides the island from the main land.—Yarmouth has a weekly market, a town-hall, a few genteel houses, and a moderate number of inhabitants. The church is dedicated to St. James, their tutelary saint; and in a little chapel, separated from the chancel, may be seen the vault where the remains of the *Holmes* family are deposited. Here is likewise a statue of *Sir Robert Holmes,* who died towards the latter end of the seventh century. The king has the rectory of Yarmouth in his gift; and it enjoys the augmentation of Queen Anne's bounty. The town was formerly of a much larger size than it is at present. Indeed it is said that, in Queen Elizabeth's time, it was a handsome town, having in it many *good livers,* who spent about *forty pounds* per annum! How different this from modern times—like Goldsmith's happy curate, they were then

Passing rich with *forty* pounds a year!

But even now, owing to the constant resort of vessels which are passing to and fro though this narrow part of the *Solent,* it enjoys a considerable degree

of prosperity. The mouth of the river *Yare* renders it easy of access; and navigators, directing their course this way, may visit it from the most distant parts of the world.

RYDE.

This place has risen into consequence of late years by its communications with *Portsmouth*, on the opposite coast. It is six miles across—a pleasing distance—and in fair weather it is a delightful water excursion from the one to the other. Buildings have multiplied here with astonishing rapidity. They seem to have arisen by some magic or incantation; for they meet the eye in every direction, and their situation presents the inhabitants of them with rich and variegated prospects both of sea and land. The fleets at Spithead and Portsmouth are in sight, and their continual movements resemble the scene in a magic lantern—ever changing their position, and gratifying the taste of the beholders; whilst hill and vale, forest and plain, press upon the senses with a

gay and careless profusion! As a bathing-place, *Ryde*, in the opinion of some, claims the preference to Cowes. Here are several machines for the purpose, and it is frequented by the nobility and gentry during the season. The rides in its vicinity are romantic, and well adapted to cheer and invigorate the valetudinarian, who either bending beneath the pressure of age, or harrassed by the pangs of disease, wishes to ward off a premature dissolution. *Seven shillings* will, in suitable weather, or at any time of the tide, ensure a vessel for Portsmouth. This is a great convenience for business or pleasure, as its calls require attention.

Ryde is divided into Upper and Lower. The Lower, or Old Village, is built along the shore, chiefly inhabited by pilots and other seafaring persons. It has several wooden jetties or quays for the convenience of landing at high-water, and of shipping goods and live stock, and filling water casks for the shipping.

At low-water, as the tide ebbs to a considerable distance over a long flat of soft sand, the operation of landing from the boats, which convey pas-

sengers as far as they can from the vessels, is performed in small carts drawn by a single horse. Seated on each side of this machine, and driven by a man who sits in front; thus a ludicrous journey is performed before we reach the town.

WEST COWES.

This town, which is pretty large and populous, stands on the declivity of a hill on the west side of the river *Medina*, where it empties itself into the sea. Hence its easy access either from Portsmouth or Southampton. The lower parts of the town are narrow, irregular, and crowded. Here is a considerable trade carried on in every kind of provision, so that vessels may supply themselves with ease when destined to the remotest climes. The elevated parts of the town are delightful, boasting purity of air, and all the charms of a variegated prospect. Not only gentlemen of the navy are partial to this spot, but the nobility and gentry reside here during the summer season. Places of wor-

ship abound here; and, among the rest, there is a beautiful chapel for the Roman Catholics. The shore is held in esteem for bathing, and much frequented. Indeed the spot appropriated to this healthy recreation, is withdrawn in a great degree from the glare of public observation. The descent into the water may be said to be rather too much on a declivity; but the guides are such that no danger is incurred, for there is the utmost safety. Here are also accommodations for *tepid bathing*, regulated to any degree of the thermometer; and at the back of the whole are a suite of small rooms, where the daily papers may be seen for information or amusement. Thus every thing is done which can promote individual or social enjoyment.

Of the *castle* and *harbour* of West Cowes, we certainly should say something, were it not that a description of them will accompany a plate in a further part of the work. The writer of this narrative could expatiate on their beauties with pleasure. About two years ago he was accompanied by a lady and a small party from Newport to this place. The day was uncommonly fine, and every thing around

conspired to their enjoyment. He well remembers standing on an eminence above the *castle*, and with the *harbour* full in view: the serenity of the sky at noon day—the placidness of the water, smooth as the surface of a lake—the incessant movement of the vessels to and fro, bent on their various destinies—all tended to gratify the senses, delight the imagination, and impress the heart! The pleasant seat to the west of the castle, called EGYPT, occupies the most northerly part of the island.

EAST COWES.

This place, as it may be supposed from its name, lies on the opposite side of the river Medina. It is not so large as its neighbour; but there are houses in it of respectability. Here is the *custom-house*, and the residences of several merchants. But it is on the hill above the town that we are to look for gentlemen's seats of great elegance and beauty. The prospects from this eminence, both by sea and land, are more easily imagined than

described. The river has a pleasing appearance when we trace its evolutions through the island up to Newport—watering its banks by its copious streams, and scattering around verdure and fertility.

East Cowes Castle, on the brow of the neighbouring hill, has a novel appearance, having a square and two round towers, ornamented with battlements; whilst the interior is accommodated to the domestic economy of a small family.

CARISBROOK CASTLE.

Leaving *Cowes* and returning back to *Newport*, the metropolis of the island, we shall just notice *Carisbrook Castle*. It will be the subject of delineation when accompanied by two plates; we only mean to touch on its situation, and its neighbouring village. Its situation is conspicuous, and therefore commanding; it must have had a very stately appearance when in its full strength and glory. We are ready to wonder at the pains which our fore-

fathers took to bring together such immense masses of stone; and we may fairly infer the turbulent state of the times which required such fortresses for the peace and safety of the country. Even their ruins inspire awe and reverence; they impart a melancholy idea of sublunary change and instability!

The *village of Carisbrook* has nothing particularly gratifying to the curiosity. The tower of the church is a fine specimen of Gothic architecture, having eight musical bells. The body of the church is a handsome stone building; and the interior is decorated and enriched by monuments worthy of attention. A modern tablet, raised to the memory of *Captain William Keeling*, has a curious allegorical allusion to his profession. He is represented sitting on the deck of a ship, with a crown of glory over him. *Fides* (Faith) is written on the sail; on the compass, *Verbum Dei* (the word of God); and on the anchor, *Spes* (Hope). The inscription below the ship informs us that he died in 1619. It thus quaintly concludes:

FORTIE and *two* years in this vessel frail,
On the rough sea of life did KEELING sail;
A merchant fortunate, a captain bould,
A courtier gracious, yet, alas! not old.
Such wealth, experience, honor, and high praise,
Few winne in twice so manie years or daies;
But what the world admired he deemed drosse,
For Christ—without Christ all his gains but losse;
For him and his dear love, with merrie cheere,
To the *Holy Land* his last course he did steere;
Faith served for sails—the *Sacred Word* for card,
Hope was his anchor, *Glory* his reward;
And thus with gales of grace, by happy venter
Thro' *straits* of Death—HEAVEN's *harbor* he did enter!

As to the village itself, it is very rural; and near 2000 souls constitute its population.

ECCLESIASTICAL ANTIQUITIES.

These cannot boast of any great extent or variety; nor are they, for this reason, made the subject of much enquiry. We shall merely enumerate the following:—At *Quarr*, north-east of Newport,

Baldwin de Rivers built an abbey of Cistertian monks in the year 1113; at *Marvel*, not far from Newport, a college of priests was founded by Henry de Blois, Bishop of Winchester; at *St. Helens* there was a priory of Cheniac monks previous to the year 1155; at *Appuldurcombe* there was a cell of Benedictine monks, subordinate to an abbey in Normandy; at *Barton*, near East Cowes, there was a priory of canons of the order of St. Austin; and finally, at *Godshill*, there is a church well worthy of inspection, being of considerable antiquity, where are to be found some superb monuments of the Worsley family.

NATURAL HISTORY.

We merely adopt this title to introduce to the reader's notice a curious *phœnomena* which happened during a hard frost in 1799, about half a mile from Black-Gang-Chine, on the southern coast of the island. It shall be given in the words of a modern publication :—" The whole of a farm called

Pitlands, on the confines of the parishes of Niton and Chale, and consisting of 100 acres of various kinds of land, was observed to be in motion, and continued so during two successive days, directing its course towards the sea in nearly a direct line. The changes which took place upon the surface were extremely curious, as there was scarcely a square yard but had altered its appearance; both rocks and trees shifting their situations, and forming as confused a scene as if the ground had been convulsed by an earthquake. In many places the earth sunk to the depth of thirty or forty feet; and a cottage, which had been tastefully fitted up as a prospect house, was partly thrown down and buried in the fissures. This *landslip* appears to have been occasioned by the freezing of the springs in the chasms of the hill; the expansive force of the ice causing a separation at the base of the cliff beneath the hill, the ground began to move forward, and the lands of the farm, being pressed on by the descending mass, were torn from their original foundations, and suddenly moved forward till all further progress was stopped by the stability of a

ridge of rocks, which, like an opposing barrier, prevented the dreary wreck from rushing headlong into the sea!"

LEARNED MEN.

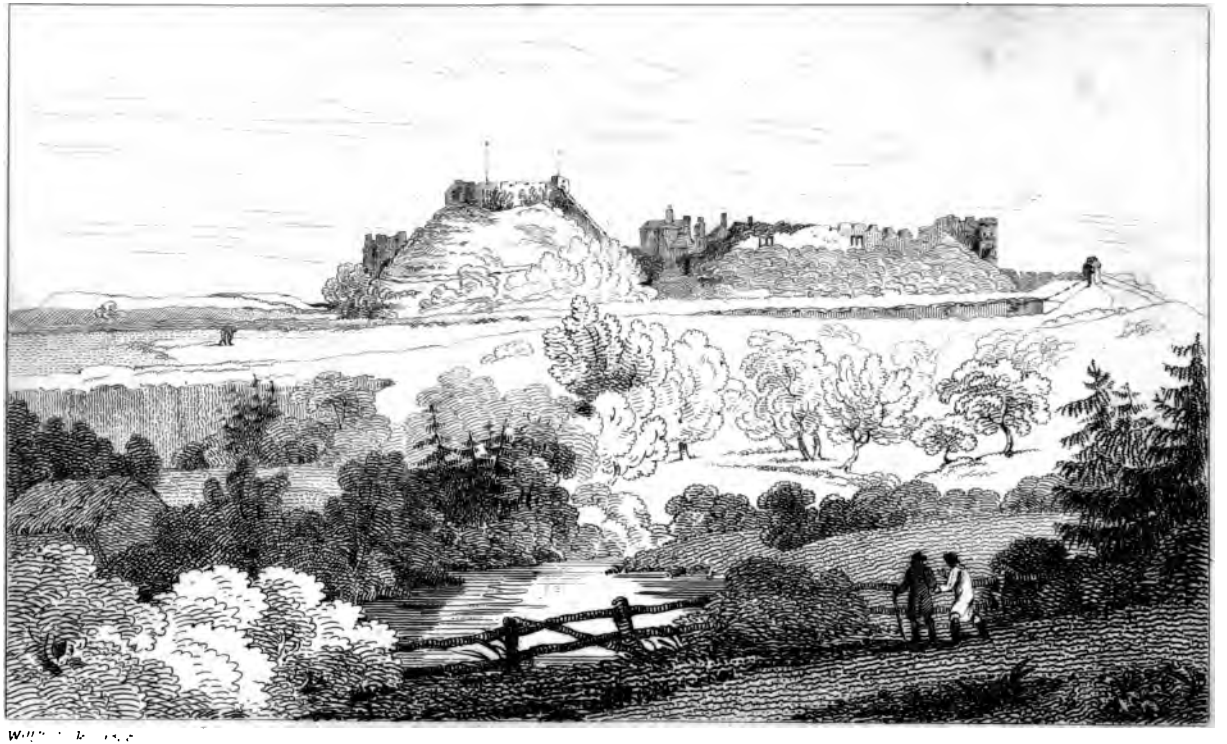
We shall close our cursory account of the island with noticing the men of literary celebrity which it has produced; for we must not confine our admiration to mere inert lifeless matter. *Mind* is the grand distinguishing principle, by which man is raised above the lower creation. This island has given birth to many individuals of eminent endowments. Among others may be reckoned *Dr. Henry Cole,* Dean of St. Paul's, a man of talents; but whose versatile principles were accommodated to the times in which he lived. *Sir John Cheke, Knt.* an amiable character, and whose skill in the languages made him the pride and boast of the university: he was one of Prince Edward's tutors; but sadly harassed in the reign of persecuting Mary, which hastened his dissolution. *Dr. Thomas James,* a learned divine and antiquary; his acquaintance

with ancient and modern languages was such, that he was deemed a *living library*. And lastly, *Dr. Robert Hooke*, a scientific and mechanic genius, was born 1635, his father being at that period curate of Freshwater. His improvements were numerous; and his being the sole inventor of the pendulum spring of a *watch*, every gentleman carries with him in his pocket a monument of his ingenuity.

Thus have we given a transient view of the leading parts of this far-famed and beautiful little island. We proceed to the *Plates*, with their several descriptions; and we trust the neatness and fidelity of the engavings will entitle them to approbation.

J. E.

Islington,
Sept. 4, 1808.



DESCRIPTION

OF

THE PLATES.

CARISBROOK CASTLE.

Taken from the Village of Carisbrook.

INDEPENDENT of its claims to notice as a monument of remote antiquity, the strong fortress, whose history is of high renown in the island annals, and within whose walls have occurred scenes of great importance to the general history of our country, this castle highly merits observation, from its picturesque situation, and the beauties of its venerable remains. While tracing its antique structure, its story is more strongly impressed upon our

GATEWAY TO CARISBROOK CASTLE.

Our second view is taken a little farther round the hill, giving a more particular delineation of the grand entrance between the two round towers, and looking inwards to the more antique entrance within, whose gateway and wicket, of great antiquity, still remain.

Passing by an advanced gateway through the outer modern works, and crossing the wide moat, the machicolated entrance, and remains of the portcullis, are defended by two lofty round towers, of the age of Edward the Fourth. At the extremity of the passage betwixt these is the venerable ancient gate.

By this we enter the court, having on one side the chapel of St. Nicholas, that forms a parish of itself, having attached to it several tracts of land in different parts of the island.

Opposite to the chapel, on the other side, are the remains of the rooms where King Charles was confined; in the ruined upper wall of which, we see the

window that has been already remarked from the outside*.

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* " Colonel Hammond, into whose power Charles threw himself, was then governor of the Isle of Wight. He seems to have been a man of humanity; and, while his hands were untied, was disposed to shew the king every civility in his power. Charles took his exercise on horseback where he pleased, though his motions were probably observed; and, as the parliament had granted him 5000l. a year, he lived a few months in something like royal state.

" But this liberty was soon abridged: his chaplains and servants were first taken from him; then his going abroad in the island gave offence; and soon after, his intercourse with any body but those set about him. So solitary was his confinement, during a great part of his time, that, as he was standing one day near the gate of the castle with Sir Philip Warwick, he pointed to an old decrepid man walking across one of the courts, and then said, 'That man is sent every morning to light my fire, and is the best companion I have had for many months.'

" All this severe usage Charles bore with patience and equanimity, and endeavoured, as much as possible, to keep his mind employed. He had ever been impressed with serious thoughts of religion, which his misfortunes had now strengthened and confirmed. Devotion, meditation, and reading the scriptures, were his great consolation. The few books he had brought with him into the castle, were chiefly on religious subjects, or of a serious cast. Among them was Hooker's Ecclesiastical Polity. This book, it is probable, he had studied with great attention, as it related much to the national ques-

Beyond, in front, stands the governor's house, having some good spacious apartments, fitted up and occupied by the late governor, Lord Bolton.

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tion of that time, in which no man was better versed. In his slender catalogue we find also two books of amusement, Tasso's Jerusalem and Spencer's Fairy Queen.

" His exercise was now much abridged. He was skilled in horsemanship, and fond of riding. But as this was refused, he spent two or three hours every morning in walking on the ramparts of the castle. Here he enjoyed at least a fine air, and an extensive prospect; though every object he saw, the flocks straying carelessly on one side, and the ships sailing freely on the other, put him in mind of that liberty of which he was so cruelly deprived. In the mean time, he was totally careless of his person; he let his beard and hair grow, and was inattentive to his dress.

" During the time of his imprisonment in Carisbrook Castle, three attempts were made, chiefly by the gentlemen of the island, to rescue him. Lord Clarendon gives us the detail of two of them; but a third, which he had heard of, he supposes to be a mere fiction. As it is mentioned, however, in the Worsley papers, with every mark of authenticity; and as one of the principal conductors of it was a gentleman of that family, there seems to be little doubt of its being a fact. The following is an abstract of it:—

" By a correspondence privately settled with some gentlemen in the island, it was agreed, that the king should let himself down by a cord from a window of his apartment. A swift horse with a guide, was to wait for him at the bottom

Round this building we pass to the ancient keep, round tower or dungeon, on a mount, ascended by 72 steps. From the top of this is a most extensive

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of the ramparts; and a vessel in the offing was to be ready to convey him where he pleased. The chief difficulty was how the king should get through the iron bars of his window. But Charles assured them he had tried the passage, and did not doubt but it was sufficiently large. But on the sign being given, and the king beginning the attempt, he soon found he had made a false calculation. Having protruded his head and shoulders, he could get no farther; and what was worse, he could not draw himself back. His friends at the bottom heard him groan in his distress, but were unable to relieve him. At length, however, by repeated efforts, he got himself disengaged; but made at that time no further attempt. Afterwards he contrived to saw the bars of his window asunder: and another scheme was laid; but the particulars of this Lord Clarendon details.

" The treaty of Newport soon after followed; after which Charles was seized by the army, and carried a prisoner to Hurst Castle: in his way thither he met Mr. Worsley, one of the gentlemen who risked his life for him at Carisbrook.— Charles wrung his hand with affection, and pulling his watch out of his pocket, gave it to him, saying, ' That is all my gratitude has to give.'

" This watch is still preserved in the family. It is of silver, large and clumsy in its form. The case is neatly ornamented with filigree; but the movements are of very ordinary workmanship, and wound up with catgut."

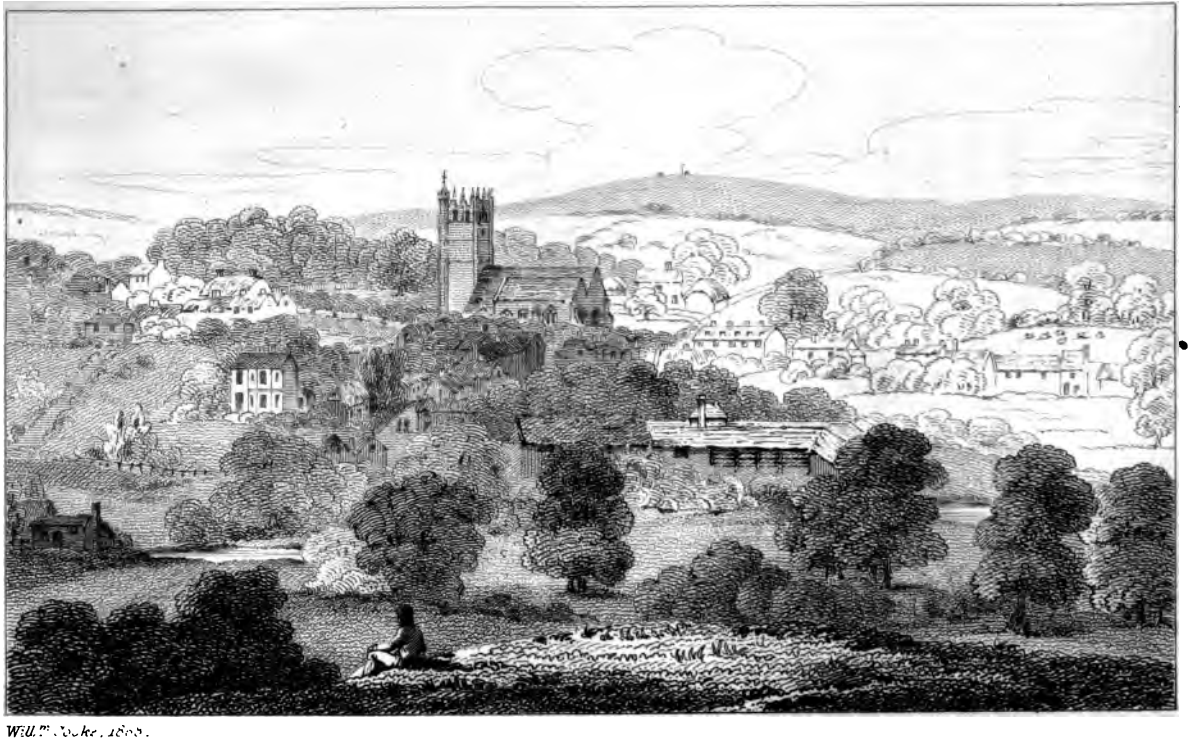
GILPIN.

CARISBROOK VILLAGE,

Taken from the Terrace of the Castle.

DESCENDING from the castle, a charming view presents itself, of the village or town of Carisbrook, which was once the capital of the island, till Newport, from its situation, so much more favourable to commercial pursuits, attained to that distinction.

Carisbrook has a very picturesque appearance, containing many neat and comfortable houses, adorned by the lofty ornamented Gothic tower of the church, and interspersed with stately and beautiful trees. A most delightful stream of water, winding round the foot of the castle hill, washes the lower part of the village, which rises up the slope of the opposite hill, over which the road proceeds through a pleasing varied surface of hill and dale, towards Buccomb and Shorwell. The church appears to have been formerly of considerable dimensions. The very lofty Gothic tower, surmounted by eight large spiral pinnacles, has a remarkable air of gran-



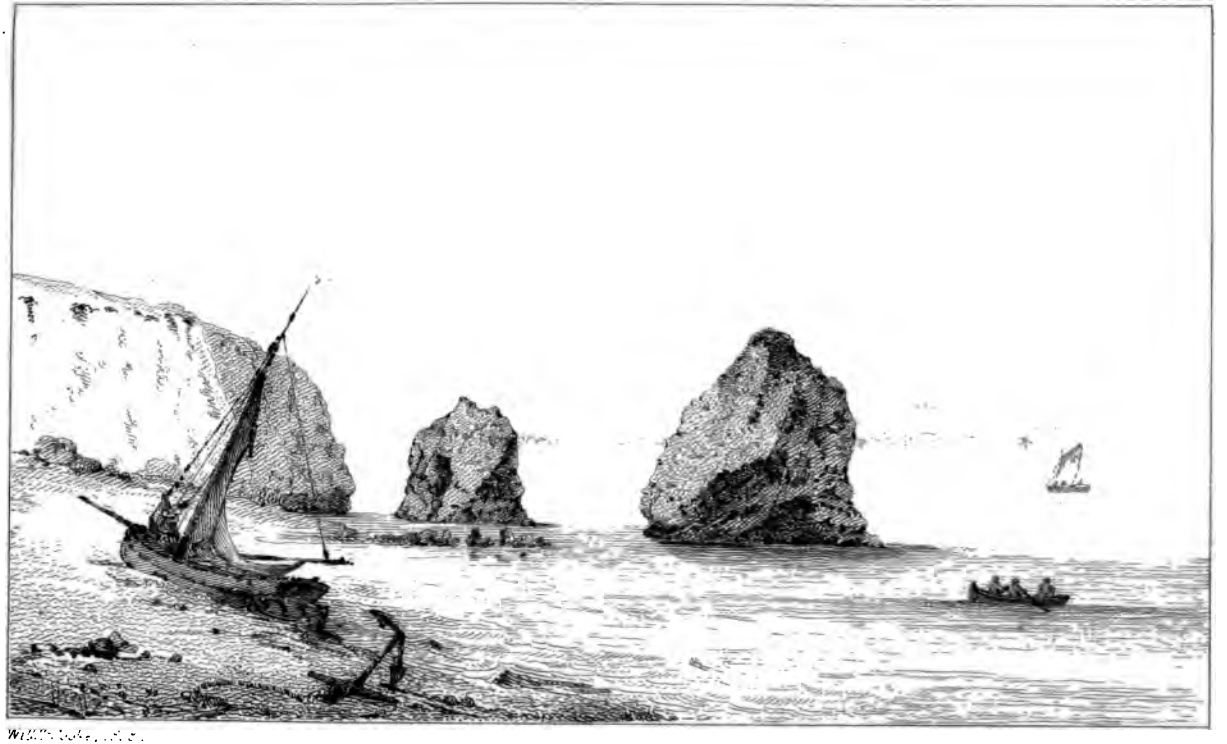
Will.m Cooke, 1800.

deur. It contains a fine peal of eight musical bells. This church has the largest and finest window of any in the island, as well as some monuments that are worthy of notice. The most remarkable one has been already described in the introductory account of the island.

ROCKS IN FRESHWATER BAY.

FROM Freshwater Gate, looking to the eastward, the two detached and weather-beaten rocks that once formed part of the cliff that terminates this side of the bay, appear most picturesque and striking objects. In stormy weather, and when the tide is high, the breaking of the waves against them forms a most grand and pleasing picture. The lofty hill of St. Catherine's soars in the distance, stretching like a vast promontory into the channel.

Above these rocks and their parent cliffs, rise the lofty downs of Compton and Afton; their green sides finely contrasting with the shining whiteness of the craggy shore. Within the bay any occasional anchored small vessel, and the fishing boats continually passing to and fro, give an animation to the picture that is highly gratifying.



Rocks in Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight

ARCHED ROCK IN FRESHWATER BAY.

WALKING to the eastward along the beach from Freshwater Gate, and passing the first isolated rock, we have a view of the arched opening in the second, perforated by the dashing waves, which cannot be viewed to advantage from any other point, and through which vessels may be seen gliding along in the distance. The trouble of walking a few paces on the beach will be amply repaid by the remarkable appearance of this singular rock.

FRESHWATER BAY AND CLIFFS.

THE scenery at the western extremity of the island, is the grandest and most generally known. Though it does not possess the peculiar and distinguishing characteristics that particularly mark the south-eastern shore, or back of the island, yet of its kind it is highly to be admired, and will class with the finest of the White Cliffs of Albion; even rivalling those of Dover. The height of the famed cliff of Shakespeare may here be found equalled by a long extended range of perpendicular precipices; and the awful occupation of the bold gatherer of samphire, will yield in terrific daring to the destroyer of the birds, that nestle in the crevices below these awful brinks. This western end of the island was anciently styled the Isle of Freshwater, from the river which here divides the island, rising within a few hundred yards of the beach on one side, and flowing out at Yarmouth on the other; both shores thence mount into the noblest range of cliffs, till they meet at the sharp point, whose broken craggs, stretch-

Wm. Cooke. 1808.

ing out to a distance, and rearing themselves in the most singular shapes above the waves, afford that grand display of scenery called the Needles.

The commencement of these views is in Freshwater Bay, throughout whose whole extent to the Needles, and round within the narrow strait to Allum Bay, towards Yarmouth, the entire range of cliffs is of the most sublime description. When viewed from the sea in particular, it presents an uninterrupted succession of grandeur. The views here selected, are such as readily present themselves in the land tour.

At the innermost part of this bay the cliffs decline in height, admitting of a landing-place on the beach that intervenes between the head of Freshwater river and the sea: this is of small extent, the cliffs rising to the eastward for some distance, till they terminate the bay. From these, by the constant washing of the tides, and the beating of continual storms, two craggy picturesque rocks have been left detached and insulated, whose appearance is very striking as viewed both ways. On the one hand they form a

fine group, backed by St. Catherine's, which terminates the view of coast on that side.

Looking the other way, we have, in the distance, the fine range of cliffs that rise majestically from Freshwater Gate, and terminate on this side at the Needles.

Exquisite is the whole scenery of this bay:—the chalky cliff, in all its variety of form; the green edge of Down, that lies so pleasingly on its brow, tinting with such peculiar beauty the outline of its perpendicular sides, with the sea boldly swelling to its base, or dashing with wild sublimity into foam, that flies in scattered particles aloft, almost to its upper cavities, from which thousands of screaming sea birds issue, borne aloft and balancing themselves in air, or resting in the cavities, darken the chalky sides with long rows of dusky plumage! The accompaniments of boats and fishermen, in all their varied circumstances and occupations, with the passing shipping, and different appearances of the changing seasons and varying weather, altogether yield a fund of subjects so highly picturesque,

as to have rivetted the attention of that pupil of nature *Morland*, most of whose sea views were sketched about this part of the island.

These cliffs are particularly remarkable for the prodigious numbers of aquatic birds which frequent them, more particularly resorting there from May to August, to deposite their eggs amongst the crevices between the shelving strata, at a great height, and yet considerably below the summit of these perpendicular precipices. Here many persons of the neighbourhood annually risk their lives in the terrific adventure of taking the eggs, which are much esteemed, and destroying the birds, to obtain the feathers, which are of the soft quality called Eider Down*. An iron crow is firmly driven into the ground at the summit, and a long stout rope turned round it: the adventurer placing himself astride a piece of wood, suspended by one end of

* A dozen birds generally yield one pound weight of soft feathers, for which the merchants give eight pence; the carcases are bought by the fishermen, at six-pence per dozen, for the purpose of baiting their crab-pots.

ing the fanciful idea of the grotto, or abode of Neptune, or of Thetis.

The view, looking outwards, is charmingly soothing; the clear expanse of the unruffled main, with its deep sea-green bosom, contrasting with the chalky fragments scattered around the cavern's mouth, and harmonizing with its emerald hue within; while the cool refreshing drops that trickle from its roof, and its briny humid floor, give a reviving freshness to this retreat, that invites the traveller to linger till the rising tide gives warning to depart. Various other smaller caverns are found along this range of cliff, into all which the rising tide makes its way with solemn and awful roar; while the hoarse screams of the sea-birds, displaced by its dashing waves, and the breaking of the surf against the ragged base of this immense barrier, impart the most grand and sublime sensations to those who look down from the abrupt precipice, or who coast along its swelling borders. This cavern expands to a considerable width and height, having a fine natural vaulted roof, and an open arch of large span towards the sea. From the far-

FRESHWATER CAVE.

THE inner part of Freshwater Bay, a little to the westward of Freshwater Gate, where the chalky cliffs begin to rise in romantic grandeur, is remarkable for its cave, that opens under the cliff, (the entrance of which may be distinctly seen in the plate,) forming a marine grotto of considerable dimensions and romantic appearance, which, when visited at the lowest tides, affords an interesting and impressive object to the curious and tasteful traveller.

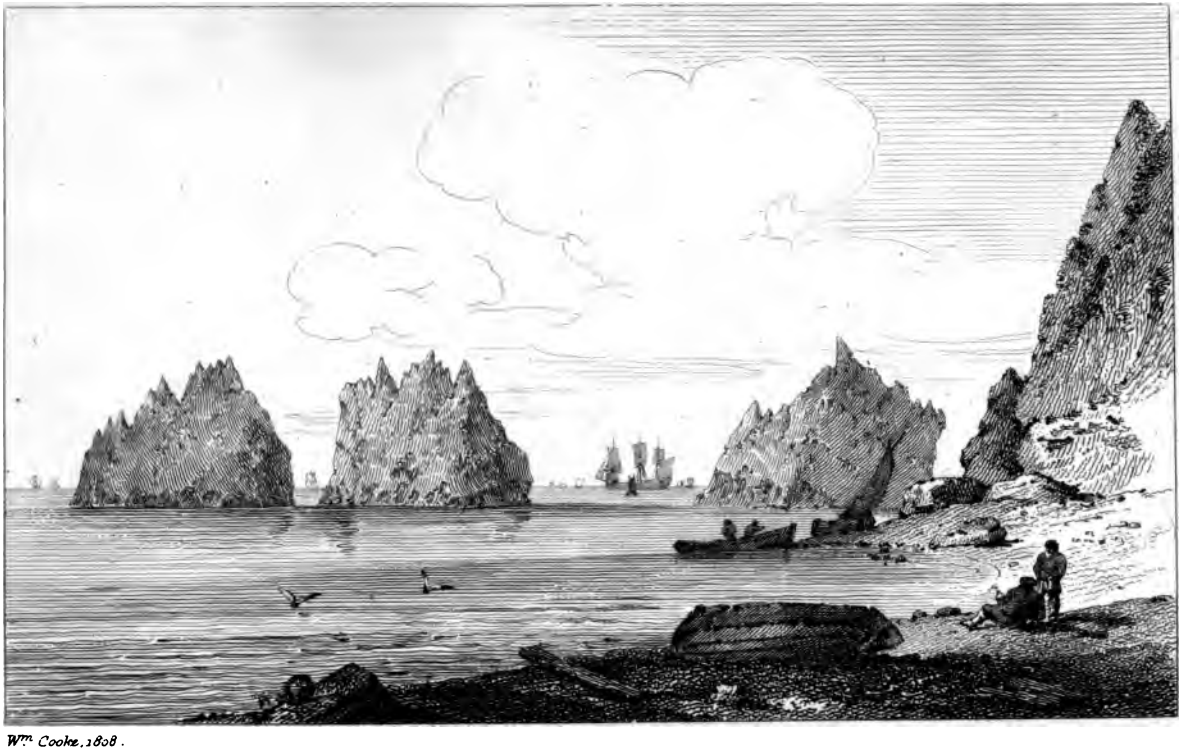
A slight pier of chalk, remaining in the middle of the opening, that hardly seems sufficient to support the incumbent body of the rock, divides the mouth of the cave into two unequal arches, the principal of which is between twenty and thirty feet in height. Within, the cavern spreads to a small distance, till it grows too low to be explored. Its depth altogether is about 120 feet. The interior of the arches, overgrown with moss and sea weed, forms a fine contrast to the white chalky cliffs outside, giv-

ALLUM BAY, AND THE NEEDLES.

From the Rabbit Warren.

BEFORE we return over the Western Down to Freshwater, it will be worth while to descend a little by the Rabbit Warren, to enjoy another view of the Needles on that side.

The fore-ground is here formed by the picturesquely-furrowed cliffs of Allum Bay, richly coloured by the varied tints caused by the gushing of its chalybeate and mineral springs. The eye is here regaled by an assemblage of variegated tints, enriching and contrasting with the white cliffs beyond. The rugged variations of surface, the countless channels worn by the gushing waters down the furrowed sides of the painted cliffs, afford a scene of singular and impressive wildness.



Wm. Cooke, 1808.

NEEDLES.

From Scratchell's Bay.

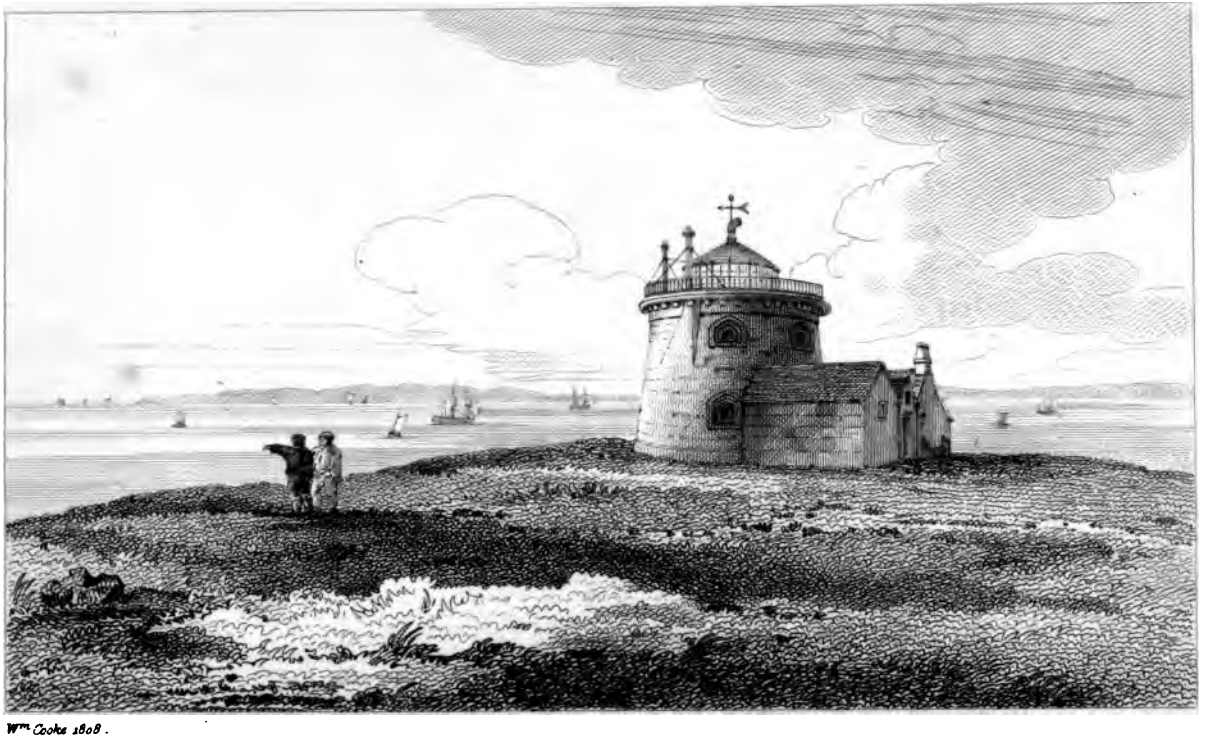
To have a good view of the Needles, it is proper to see them from the water. Taking a boat at Freshwater Gate, where there are several can be hired for the purpose of this interesting little voyage, we shall be amply gratified by a view of the stupendous cliffs of Freshwater, from the sea, which, at the distance of about a quarter of a mile, have a very sublime effect. It is along this range of cliff that voyagers take the diversion of shooting marine birds*, which are to be seen in immense numbers, some floating in the air, while others sit in thick rows on the several shelves or strata of the cliffs. Here are many caverns and deep chasms that seem to enter a great way into the

* "Puffins, razor-bills, willcocks, gulls, cormorants, Cornish choughs, daws, starlings, and wild pigeons."

Worsley's Hist. p. 273.

rocks; and in many places the issuing of springs, forms small cascades of rippling water down to the sea.

We shall soon catch a view of the Needles from the same point as the engraving. These singular rocks obtained their name from a lofty pointed one resembling a needle in shape, which had been disjointed with the others from the main land by the force of the waves. This was 120 feet high above low-water mark; but about forty years ago it fell with a tremendous crash, and totally disappeared, its base having been undermined by the sea. The remaining three rocks have a number of sharp points on their tops, resembling the " jagged grinders of a stupendous jaw."



Wm. Cooke 1808.

LIGHT HOUSE.

On Freshwater Cliffs.

FROM Freshwater Bay the cliffs, as they rise in height till they reach the elevation of 600 feet, are crowned by a range of downs extending to their chalky precipices. There we ascend to the highest spot, where is placed a signal-house, communicating with St. Catherine's. Beyond this is a curiously-constructed light-house, near the edge of the cliff that forms the western end of the island into the small concave recess, walled by its perpendicular chalk cliffs of stupendous height.

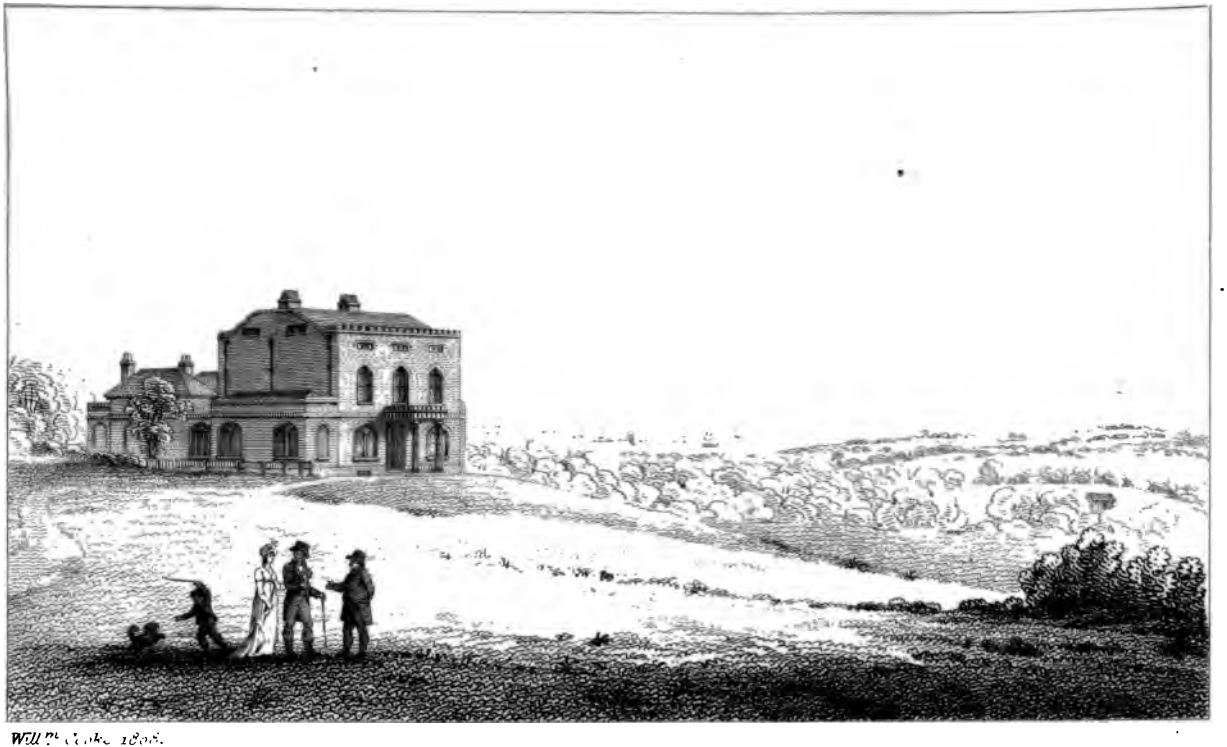
From the *Light-house* we must proceed on foot to the extreme point that terminates in the narrow ridge of chalky rock extending towards the Shingles. From hence, looking downwards, the Needle Rocks appear to great advantage; and from the eminence on which we stand, we are presented with a view at once grand and awful.

The Light-house commands an extensive distant coast, from St. Alban's Head, in Dorsetshire, to Lymington in the New Forest.

FARRINGFORD HILL,

The Seat of Ed. Rushworth, Esq.

THIS elegant newly-erected edifice, about half a mile from Freshwater Gate, is the residence of Mr. Rushworth; as a situation certainly preferable to his more ancient mansion of Freshwater House, which, though spacious and convenient, and surrounded with good gardens and grounds, yet may be thought to yield to the eligible situation of this new house. It is a tasteful structure of light brick, in the most cheerful of the Gothic style, placed on the declivity under the high down towards the Signal-house, and facing the whole extent of the island to the eastward. A more commanding situation could not well be chosen; and immediately contiguous is the beautiful display of the island of Freshwater, whose fertile and well-wooded lands appear as an extensive domain belonging to this house, and bounded by the river Yar. It is finely sheltered from the prevailing south-west winds by the high down behind, and commands a view of



Will.m Cooke 1808.

Farringford Hill, F. Bushworth Esq. Isle of Wight.

the British Channel as well as the Solent Sea (seen in the Plate), separating the island from the Hampshire coast, which forms some very beautiful scenery from the house. The view of Freshwater Gate and Bay, with the whole range of coast to St. Catherine's, is particularly striking. And even from that distance Farringford appears a conspicuous object. It is distant from Yarmouth about three miles.

NORTON LODGE.

The Residence of Captain Hammond.

THIS retreat embellishes the shore on the western side of the river Yar, and directly faces Lymington. Though its situation is not elevated, yet the whole range of the New Forest is spread before it; and the moving view of shipping passing through the Needles, give an interesting variety to the scenery. Its sandy beach, where a boat can approach within a few yards of the garden, make it peculiarly convenient to a lover of aquatic excursions. The whole neighbourhood is highly agreeable; the rides throughout the extent of Freshwater island being all interesting in a high degree.

The house is in a light Gothic style; its walls covered with a white composition, contrasted in a singular manner by black pebbles, arranged in lines over the windows and down the sides. These, with its roof of dark slate, and a large Gothic window

at the western end, give an extraordinary and not unpleasing appearance to this lodge.

A beautiful garden surrounds the house, which is embellished by trees of picturesque forms, midst which it stands a conspicuous object from Yarmouth and the sea.

A light park paling incloses the grounds, which ascend the hill behind; and in front is moored an elegant little pleasure yacht, within a stone's-throw of the house.

The neighbourhood is pleasant: two or three cheerful cottages on the shore, and the charming residence of Mr. Mitchell, called Norton Cottage, on the hill above, compose a delightful retirement.

There is a ferry across from Yarmouth, and horse-boats, if required. The town and castle of Yarmouth, with the lofty downs in the back ground, appear to great advantage from Norton, which, upon the whole, is well worthy the traveller's attention before he quits that part of the island.

SHALFLEET CHURCH.

THIS church is an ancient and singular structure. It consists of a body, chancel, south aisle, with a low tower of considerable breadth. The north porch is of Norman architecture, embellished with a rude sculpture of a bishop, with his arms extended, and his hands resting on animals resembling griffins. The windows were formerly ornamented with painted glass; the arms of Montacute Earl of Salisbury, and of Isabella de Fortibus, still remain in them.

Will.m Cooke. 1803.

SWAINSTON.

Seat of Sir John Barrington, Bart.

THE finest display of rich well wooded country, diversified in surface, and adorned to its utmost capability by plantations on every spot which could seem adapted to them, that the whole island can boast, is perhaps the estate of Sir John Barrington. This fine scenery commences at Calbourn, and extends to near Carisbrook; it is screened by the high ridge of downs to the south, that cross the middle of the island, and stretches towards the northern shore, where Gurnard's and Shorness Bays break the view in a picturesque manner, and the sea that intervenes with the New Forest beyond, forms an agreeable finish to the picture.

In the midst of this domain stands the elegant and commodious modern built mansion, that forms the present view. It is seen to great advantage from the road, where it combines happily with the surrounding scenery. But as a building, it should

be viewed from a little distance, within the grounds, where this view was taken. Another advantageous point is from the hill ascending towards Carisbrook, where the whole extent of scenery is at once displayed. A fine park surrounds the house, and that is again bordered by the richest woods.

Will.m Cooke, 1808.

Fernhill, M.rs Shute, Isle of Wight.

FERN HILL.

Seat of Mrs. Shute,

Midway betwixt Newport and Ryde.

On a commanding eminence above Wootton-bridge this mansion presents its elegant structure, and embellished grounds, to crown a landscape which boasts of a display of striking beauties. The deep recess of the northern shore betwixt Cowes and Ryde, whose banks are wooded to the very water's edge, has the spacious inlet called Fishbourne Creek, where the tide flows a considerable distance up the country, bordered on the eastern side by the beautiful wood of Firestone, which extends along nearly its whole course, and terminates its progress towards the high land that descends from Ashey Down. In one only part, where the road approaches Wootton-bridge, does the wood for a short space disappear, and this is adorned by the mansion of Kite-hill, the residence of Major Popham, and the scattered rural habitations of the village beneath.

BINSTEAD COTTAGE.

WITHIN two miles of Ryde, a little distance from the Newport road, near the water's edge, is the village of Binstead, charmingly situated, surrounded by woods. There is something very beautiful in the appearance of the common; its surface has that pleasing variety that so much distinguishes St. Boniface. A few neat cottages surround this spot, which is capable of much improvement. In the bosom of this sequestered village, our attention is arrested by the parsonage (the subject of the present view), which cannot fail to impress itself on the recollection, as one of the characteristic beauties of the island. It is an elegant and captivating thatched cottage, charmingly placed on a verdant lawn, embowered amongst the finest shrubs, adorned by trees of strikingly picturesque forms, amidst whose pendant foliage are glimpses of the water, the shipping, and opposite shore. The modest cottage thatch seems here to shelter every comfort and elegance. The whole scene has an air of sylvan

beauty not to be described; but of which the view may be found to convey some idea. Perhaps art would find it difficult to equal it, in any other situation, at infinitely more expence and trouble than has ever been here bestowed.

Hard by is seen the simple church, in a like picturesque situation. It is one of the smallest in the island, of considerable antiquity, and principally remarked for the strange figure that is conspicuous over a door-way, now filled up, on the north side. This sculpture, called the *Idol* by the country people, has given rise to much fanciful discussion.

Adjoining the church-yard is now added an ornamented cottage, of pleasing construction, intended for the occasional residence of the family of Fleming, to whom this manor belongs, as part of a considerable estate, extending to a distance towards the interior. From the footway to Ryde this now affords a conspicuous object, in addition to the other fine scenery of this delightful neighbourhood.

In the thick wood extending from Binstead to

Fishbourne Creek, and affording a cool walk amid the noon-tide heat, are the ruins of Quarr Abbey, once of some importance, of considerable extent, and enjoying an advantageous situation.

Will.m Cooke. 1808.

APPLEY,

The Seat of Captain Hutt.

THIS charming spot, which, as the residence of Dr. Walker, was so long admired for its natural advantages of situation, is now nearly finished in an improved style, embellished with taste, and promises to rank with the first beauties of the island.

It is distant from Ryde about half a mile, on the sea shore to the eastward, adjoining St. John's, of whose grounds it appears to occupy a portion, the two estates being somewhat intermingled.

A beautiful thatched cottage, recently added on this side as a north lodge to Mr. Simeon's, appears equally calculated to embellish the approach to Appley.

The house, an handsome square stone building, stands on a smooth lawn, elevated over a hanging wood towards the sea, and bordered by a shrubbery, where the fine trees, long growing in great luxuri-

ance, are heightened by a flourishing plantation of evergreens. The gentle declivity, and beautiful undulations of this lawn, are rarely to be found equalled.

The most agreeable pictures of Ryde, and the Motherbank, Spithead, Portsmouth, and St. Helens, are presented through several vistas in the shrubbery, and over the woods that extend along the margin of the shore.

The principal entrance is now towards the East, where the carriage road ascends from the shore, meeting the principal avenue that descends past St. John's, through the centre of the fine grounds above it.

To the South, the ornamented front has a bowed centre opening to the garden, which in a small compass is singularly beautiful. An undulating lawn, bordered and interspersed with the fine evergreens, and other foliage studded with flowers, is terminated by lofty firs, mingled with bay trees of considerable height. A fine wood rising behind confines the prospect, and gives the most sequestered appearance to this calm retreat.

The arbutus, that most beautiful of shrubs, is here abundant, and flourishes to great perfection; one in particular, on the lawn behind, is remarked for its magnitude and beauty.

ST. JOHN'S.

Seat of Edward Simeon, Esq.

THIS delightful residence is situated in the immediate vicinity of Ryde, to which place it affords at once the greatest ornament and most agreeable advantages. The house was orginally built by Colonel Amherst, uncle to the present Lord Amherst, and was afterwards inhabited by Sir Archibald Macdonald, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer. It stands on an elevated part of the extensive grounds, and is rather convenient than spacious. An unequalled prospect of Spithead and Portsmouth appears in front, with fine scenery on either side to a great distance. The grounds are of considerable extent, bordered by a pleasant shrubbery walk, commanding fine views. These grounds commence within half a mile of Ryde, extending from the Brading and St. Helens Road, which borders them for half

Will.m Cooke, 1808.

St John's, Edw.d Simeon, Esq.r Isle of Wight

a mile further to the sea shore adjoining Appley. Here commences the great beauty of this estate, the fine wood which borders the shore for a considerable distance, extending parallel with the road above; except that it takes rather a semicircular sweep, the coast here forming a fine bay, which is fast improving by an accumulation of sand, all that has yet been wanting to render this situation a rival to the Priory. The walks through this wood have been lately arranged with taste, under the superintendance of Mr. Repton. Several seats are well placed to command views of the opposite shore and shipping; and the whole is still more highly embellished by additions which form the subjects of the two following Plates, affording agreeable objects of distinct and contrasted style.

This view of St. John's is taken from the commencement of the slope towards Ryde; where the shrubbery ascends from the cottage lodge. The house is well adapted to the prospect, spreading its front towards the sea, whence it appears more considerable than it really is. Under the slope of the

grounds, which have much the appearance of a park, appear the woods, in front of which stands the marina. Across the road which passes near the house are excellent gardens, hot-houses, &c. and the adjoining farm is situated where the road turns off to Brading.

THE MARINA.* ST. JOHN'S.

In the centre of the walk that meanders through the hanging wood, bordering the shore, is the pretty Gothic, or Moorish castle, called the *Marina*. From its upper apartment, and the turret above, is a view so near as to be quite distinct, of Portsmouth, Gosport, and Spithead; while, from the sea, this building affords an object that draws the attention to this shore, and embellishes the fine island scenery of the neighbourhood. This, with the contiguous mansion of Appley, and Mr. Simeon's house above, give together a rich and captivating picture, when viewed from a little distance on the water.

This is the weekly resort of the inhabitants of Ryde, whose promenade on Sunday evening through these walks, enlivened by a band of music in this building, affords an exhilarating scene of innocent recreation.

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* For the Plate, see Frontispiece.

LODGE, OR COTTAGE ENTRANCE TO ST. JOHN'S.

If strikingly to gratify the public taste, and form a favourite subject of recollection, be a criterion of any superior excellence or beauty, this subject has particular claims to notice, for few are so familiar to the remembrance and conversation of the tourists as this simply elegant approach to Mr. Simeon's grounds; at the commencement of which, on the road from Ryde to Brading and St. Helens, these cottages form a lodge of a new and singular description. The taste of Mr. Repton has here been conspicuous, giving to this estate an ornament beyond what a more laboured and costly edifice would have conferred, and thus furnishing an additional gratification to the numerous annual visitors to the island, whose amusement and convenience it appears the liberal wish of Mr. Simeon to promote.

Within an handsome railing and gateway the avenue commences, between two charming cottages of stone, whose thatch is disposed in a pleasing

I. Farnham Esq. del.

Wm. Sharp sculp.

manner, and in front thrown forward over a rustic porch, formed by natural trunks of trees. The jessamine and rose entwine around the windows, intermixed with the clematis, or virgin's bower, a species of creeper, that rises round the rustic pillars of the porch, and is disposed beautifully above. Its deep and glossy leaves, and fine white and purple flowers, make a striking contrast with the thatch, over the rising part of which it appears carelessly thrown, and hangs over it with a grace that gives a charming effect.

The trees within form a fine back ground, where the road is seen to proceed amidst the richest foliage; it soon winds round behind the cottages, and in a serpentine course ascends the hill towards the house, bordered by a flourishing plantation, and affording a succession of agreeable and varying prospects.

The interior of these cottages is not unworthy of remark. They are so disposed as to contain, in the small space of about 18 feet square, a sitting-room and bed-room, with a pantry: the one affording a comfortable residence for the cottager who attends the gate; the other an occasional retreat for

company, where a few books, some neat suitable furniture, and the pleasing novelty of the situation, must give a charm that a fastidious taste can hardly fail to allow.

The porch contains rustic seats, and may be said to afford an additional and agreeable apartment.

The whole scene is sequestered, though from a few paces distant is a view of the upper part of Ryde, on the neighbouring hill.

THE PRIORY.

Seat of Sir Nash Grose, Knt.

A Judge of the Court of King's Bench.

THE situation of the priory, in some respects, is scarcely to be equalled, perhaps in no instance surpassed throughout the island. We need not wonder at its having been the scite of an ancient priory of monks, who generally selected the finest situations. To the farm which succeeded the suppression of the religious order, Sir Nash Grose has added the embellishment of the present mansion, an elegant pile of freestone, with bow windows to the finest prospects. From the commanding elevation of the house extends a lawn, gently sloping in the direction of the coast, enriched by a shrubbery of luxuriant growth, and various scattered groups of majestic trees. In front, the long extent of bold rocky banks, that border the wide spreading bay, are thickly covered with trees, brushwood, and evergreen foliage, that fringe its whole extent, rising to

NITON.

THIS pleasant village, where the interesting part of the southern tour commences, is eight miles and an half from Newport, at the eastern base of St. Catherine's Hill, from whose summit it is distant about a mile.

Instead of being placed on the shore, as might be expected from its appellation of Crab Niton, it really stands on a most elevated situation, having a descent of half a mile, through a break in the range of cliff, to the small cove of Puckaster, where its fishing boats are kept on the shore below.

The houses of Niton, sufficiently numerous to form two streets, are only roughly built of the common stone, and thatched, with the exception of the parsonage, an excellent house, lately built by the present rector, the Rev. J. Barwis.

Here is a decent village inn, affording as good accommodations for small parties, as can reasonably be expected in so remote a situation.

The view annexed may tend to impress an idea of the simplicity of this rural spot.

The neat and venerable church, one of the oldest in the island, stands at the extremity of the village, towards St. Catherine's, on whose summit, in the distance, appears the signal mast.

In the church-yard, close to the adjoining farm, are the elevated steps of an ancient cross, supposed to have been used for the ceremony of baptism.

A small portion of stained glass remains in the eastern window, over which is a small stone cross, still entire. In the fore ground appears the stream of clear water that flows over a gravelly bed along the street; within a mile it turns two mills, and increasing in its progress through the vale of Newchurch, falls into Brading Harbour.

Round the thatched cottage, in the corner, the road to Chale rises over St. Catherine's down.

Trees of the full size here exhibited, are numerous throughout the village, notwithstanding its high situation; a proof of the richness of the soil.

UNDERCLIFF.

In this view, which is taken near Mirables, an attempt is made to give an idea of the enchanting scenery of the Undercliff, so often enthusiastically described, and which can rarely fail to justify the most favourable description. This district alone would reward a visit to the island, and it is difficult to form an adequate idea of the nature of its appearance, as well as of the beauties it presents. The best general knowledge of it might perhaps be gained if the travellers can undertake a short walk from Niton, across the fields, to Cripple Path. While enjoying a fine view of the expanse of the British Channel, they will gradually approach the apparent termination of their walk, seemingly bounded by the edge of the cliff, and expect naturally to look down upon the waves that should wash its base:—not so; they will abruptly discover a new scene of vegetation spread many fathoms down below, and skirting the feet of the shelving rock with a rich bordering

Will.m Cooke, 1808.

of land, half a mile in breadth. Through this lies the carriage road to Steephill and Bonchurch, an extent of five miles, replete with beauties.

The wild, but safe declivity of Cripple Path, may here be descended, and the carriages and horses may meet the travellers below.

When a little farther on they will find the subject of the annexed view, and will look up with some astonishment at the precipice which they have braved.

As this will not meet the approbation of every traveller, a good road, descending past the barrack, through a break in the range of cliff that extends from St. Catherine's to Dunnose, will conduct, with less difficulty, to the same spot. On the right hand, at the bottom of the hill, stands Westcliff House, the newly-erected seat of Mrs. Fawkener; and near Cripple Path is Beauchamp Cottage, belonging to Mr. Kirkpatrick.

Passing Cripple, at the first turning of the road, this view presents itself: a beautiful specimen of the general features of their district. This appearance is generally described as owing to some "con-

vulsion, that has burst asunder the solid rock for five miles, and the separated mass seems to have rushed forward in scattered fragments towards the sea." This kind of convulsion may, it is conceived, be accounted for on the principles already suggested in our Introductory Account of the island, under the head of Natural History.

The dashing of the waves in this open part of the channel, gradually undermining the range of cliff, whose weight became over predominant above, and the numerous springs in the upper land oozing through in this direction, aided by the powerful operation of hard frosts and sudden thaws, the whole, at different periods, tumbled in tremendous ruin, spreading, in its fall, as a lower surface of good land, interspersed with enormous masses of the rock; it in time invited the plough, and gradually reached the pitch of cultivation it now exhibits.

"The majestic perpendicular, which has kept its station," is aptly compared to an immense wall, whose singular appearance is already so appropriately described, as will be found in the comparison, that we forbear to attempt it in any other language.

This rocky wall still continues crumbling, and falling in various places, in a way that appears similar to what we have supposed; though now wanting the additional operation of the waves, at this period so far removed, we are not to suppose that this effect will continue to prevail much longer, or to any serious extent.

The whole ground of this romantic region is interspersed with rocky fragments, overgrown, like their parent cliffs, with moss and ivy. A variety of trees, the oak, the ash, the holly, and others of the evergreen tribe, diversify the scene; and wild flowers, in profusion, impart a fragrance to the hedges and lanes; while corn-fields occupy every level spot, where there is sufficient soil amongst the rocks for the purposes of tillage.

MIRABLES.

The Villa of Mrs. Arnold.

THE general appearance of many parts of the Undercliff land has been well compared to the "clumps in pleasure grounds." Nature having thus invited her admirers, and prepared the abode of taste, we need not be surprised at the beauties now exhibited, but must be rather astonished that they are not enjoyed by greater numbers of residents, in a situation where so little of embellishment remains to be effected by labour and expence, and so little is required of art.

Of this description is the charming spot that boasts the subject of this view.

In the state above described it was selected, not many years since, by the late George Arnold, Esq. of Ashby Lodge, Northamptonshire, and gradually brought to its present perfection—a delicious retreat, embellished with every indication of real taste

Wm. Cooke 1808.

that, in preferance to a stately mansion, continues the favoured residence of the widow and sons of the late possessor.

The house is simply in the cottage style, and having been enlarged at different periods, has a wildly irregular appearance, that is not unpleasing. It has one apartment of a superior description, that is adorned by some capital pictures. This opens to a lawn, gently declining to the shore, where are convenient boat-houses. This lawn is surrounded by a shrubbery, intersected by serpentine walks, enriched by a profuse display of fragrant flowers, and cooled by a chrystal stream of ever-running water.

The pleasure grounds altogether are but of small compass, but so contrived as to appear of considerable extent. The walks under the cliffs, in particular, are wildly romantic, and in some places awfully pleasing. A small flower garden, of curious arrangement, yields a singular display of sweetness and beauty. And a neat dairy, with the pellucid stream running across its floor, cannot fail, from its simplicity and suitable construction, to excite agreeable sensations.

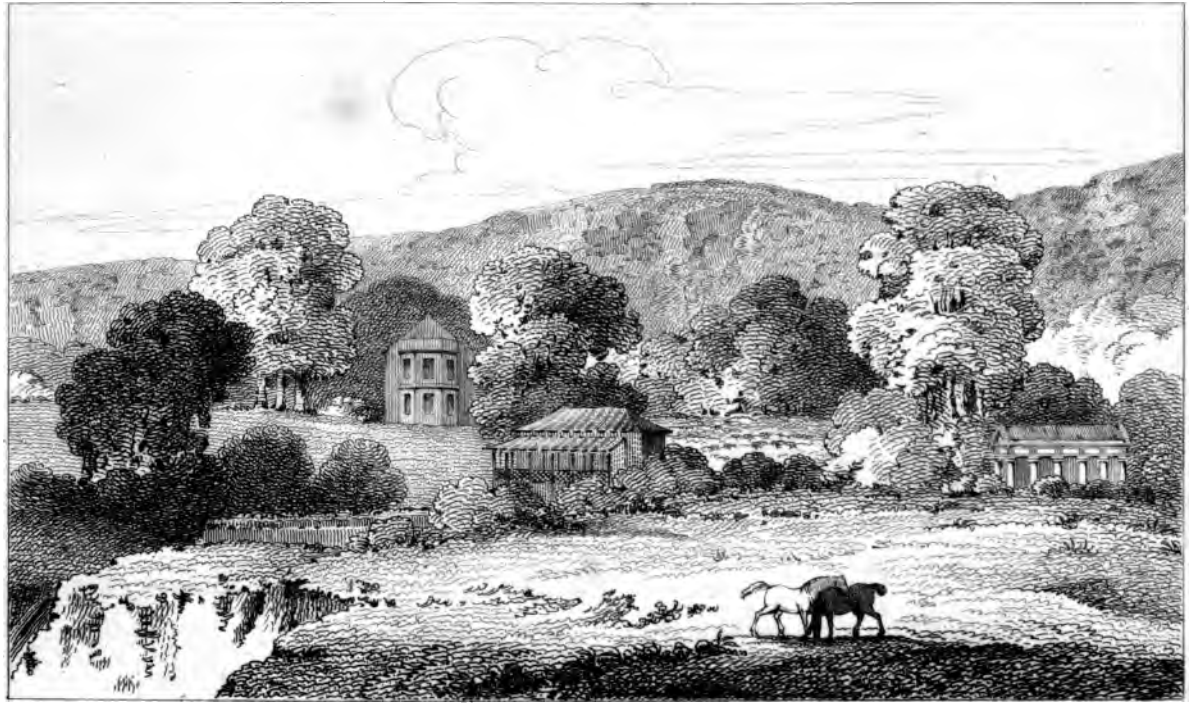
MARINE VILLA,

Of the late Sir Richard Worsley, Bart.

In the deep recess of the village of St. Lawrence, between the road and a pleasant sandy cove, bounded by white cliffs, and defended by a small battery of brass cannon, on a verdant lawn, embowered in delightful shades, stands this lovely Marine Villa. This was latterly the favourite abode of its tasteful owner; a retirement alike of elegance and comfort, totally sequestered, yet rich in every ornament of nature and art.

The vineyards, so much spoken of, are now no longer cultivated, except a few terraces under the slope of the lawn, where the vines are kept in good order.

The model of the Temple of Neptune at Corinth, contains an orangery and conservatory: and the pavilion below the lawn is fitted up in a captivating style of the purest modern taste, as a banquetting-room, or saloon.



W.m Cooke. 1808.

Marine Villa of the late S.r R.d Worsley, Isle of Wight.

The following inscriptions, on the walls of the villa, are appropriate to this scene of calm retirement:—

"And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees; books in the running brook;
Sermons in stone—and good in every thing."

SHAKESPEARE. *As You Like It.*

"Forsake the tawdry tinsel of the great;
The peaceful cottage beckons a retreat,
Where true content each solid comfort brings—
To kings unknown, and favourites of kings!"

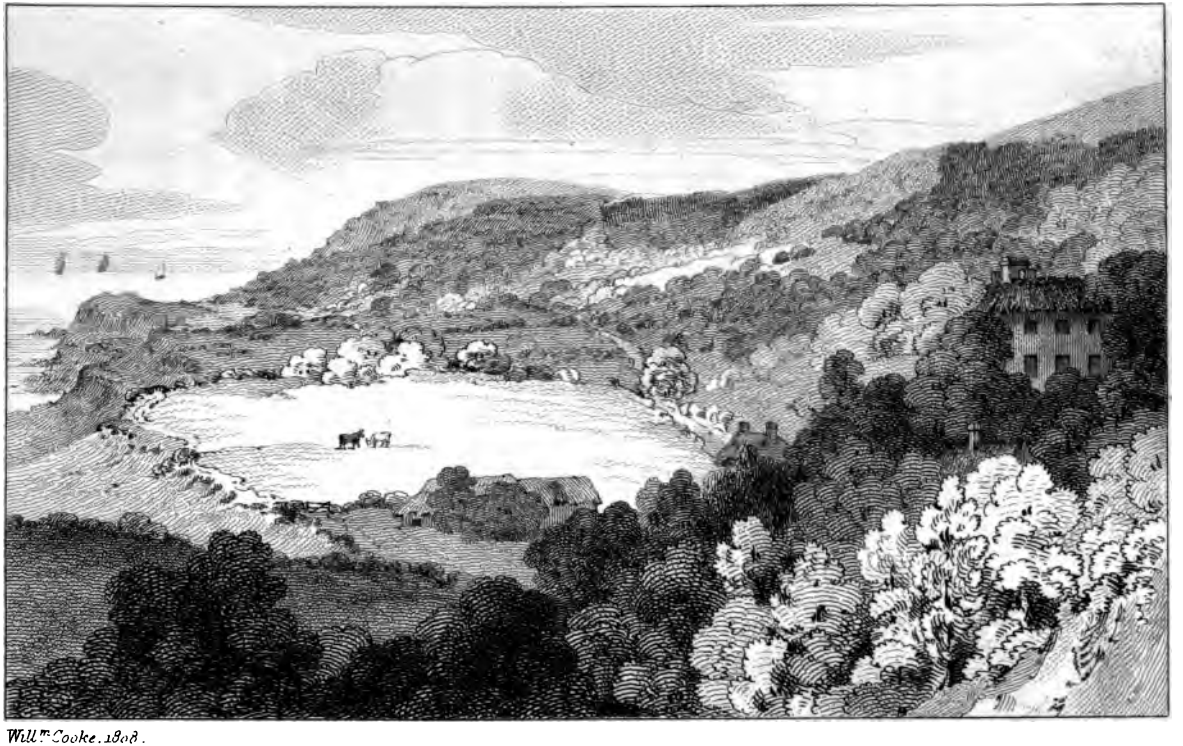
HOR. *Epode.* "*Fuge magna.*"

STEEPHILL.

Cottage Villa of the Earl of Dysart.

A MILE from St. Lawrence, and nearly the same from Ventnor, amid scenery glowing with the peculiar features of the Undercliff, is the village of Steephill, whose situation is of itself exquisite, yet still more adorned by the beautiful cottage of Lord Dysart. This has so long been celebrated as pre-eminently the Cottage at the Back of the Island, that the traveller is now agreeably surprised at meeting several others, equal perhaps in beauty, though this still continues unrivalled in situation. It was originally built by the Right Hon. Hans Stanley, when governor of the island (between the years 1770 and 1780).

We are here gratified with the true cottage style, in its captivating simplicity. Its neat white walls, covered with modest thatch, contain some comfortable apartments, well furnished, and adorned with



Will.m Cooke. 1808.

Brookhill Cottage, East Cowes, Isle of Wight.

several good pictures—sea pieces by Vandevelde; several of the neighbouring scenes by Ibbotson, as well as some performances by the noble proprietor. The style of the attic bed-chambers is particularly well adapted, containing fixed bed places, arranged round the sky-light in the roof, similarly to a ship's cabin. The principal room has a bow window, covered with thatch, that projects upon a lawn that stretches towards St. Lawrence, over whose village there is a pleasing view to the turn of the cliff, beyond the church.

Here, at the door of the saloon, a bubbling crystal spring replenishes a capacious hollowed stone, carved as a scollop-shell, giving a delicious coolness to the apartment and the surrounding lawn.

To the left, over the village of Steephill, is the fine expanse of ocean. Above, on the right, rises the garden, on a broad terrace, sheltered by the rocky rampart, amongst whose detached fragments are some romantic seats, and a pleasing hermitage, lined with moss. Other springs, alike cool and pellucid, adorn and refresh the different walks, and form beautiful cascades. Under the level of the

lawn is the building which was formerly the inn; to this an approach is made by the upper story, that has a whimsical effect. The uncommonly fine standard fig tree, which spreads so luxuriantly as to afford shelter to a large party, is suited to this situation, glowing with the sun's warmest rays.

Passing the shady avenue, and rustic gateway, to the steep ascending road, an umbrageous walk conducts to the seat on the opposite hill, towards the sea, whence the view is taken. Its object is rather to give a general idea of the situation, than a detail of any particular beauties, of which there are so many here happily combined.

Leaving this seat by an easy descent, the cavern in the opposite rock, that overhangs the sea, and the waterfall of the sweet collected springs from above, that all precipitate at last upon the beach, are the objects that close the delights of this favoured situation.

Wm Cooke. 1808.

ST. BONIFACE.

Villa of Thomas Bowdler, Esq.

Leaving Ventnor, the road winds through the decorated grounds of St. Boniface, past the beautiful villa of Thomas Bowdler, Esq. which displays, to great advantage, the taste of the late Colonel Hill and his lady, who first embellished it. The house, which stands pleasantly sheltered under the lofty hill, and finely relieved and adorned by beautiful trees and shrubs, has all the simplicity of the cottage style, with every comfort as a dwelling. It has some good apartments, one of which contains a capital picture by Salvator Rosa—Fortune dispensing her favours; and an Holy Family by Sasso Ferrati, which is greatly admired.

Behind, the gardens rise in terraces to the steep base of St. Boniface down, that impends gradually over this spot. In an adjoining paddock we find an inscription to the memory of a faithful servant,

a favourite horse, whose services in carrying his master, during a long course of travels, are here gratefully recorded.

The view gives the beautiful course of the road, through the grounds that charmingly undulate in front. The seat is on a picturesque eminence, whence is a commanding sea view. Over the rich foliage where the road descends, we have the finest of the island scenery hence to Bonchurch, the mountain form of the down above, whose base is washed by the little lake, beyond which Mr. Hadfield's singular rock closes the prospect.

VENTNOR COVE.

In the neighbourhood of St. Boniface the captivating coast scenery of this cove, or bay, rivals perhaps any other part of the rocky shore of the island. The Freshwater and Culver Cliffs are grander, but this possesses so much beauty, joined to much of the romantic, as boldly to dispute with them the claim to superior interest. The traveller who fears not a little fatigue, ought to walk over the hill beyond the seat above Steephill, the point of the last view, following the foot path along the steep ridge, and thence descending to the beach.

The usual way is, however, to descend by the mill of Ventnor, directly to the Cove. The termination of the bay on this side would form a charming view, being an arched rock, or rather perforation, where the chalky soil has washed away from between the hard rocks, leaving them as if they had been erected into a huge romantic arch. Hence, not only this cove, but the whole extent of

coast beyond Steephill and St. Lawrence, affords a range of interesting outline; while, in the foreground, the mill and waterfall, with the range of fishermen's huts upon the shore, and the busy scene of boats, some hauled upon the beach, some putting off to sea, and others on their return, altogether form a lively and gratifying picture.

Above the mill, and sheltered under the declivity, where the road descends from Appuldurcombe, is a neat cottage, whose paddock skirts the Steephill road. This has lately been refitted, after an accidental fire, by its late owner, Lady Frances Tollemache, sister to Lord Dysart, but recently deceased.

Near this, in a striking situation, the New Inn, lately established above Ventnor, in lieu of that formerly at Steephill, affords good accommodations in this centrical situation, whence the travellers may visit, with convenience, every part of the back of the island. The sea view, from its windows and garden, is very fine. Every cottage, indeed, in this retired village, possesses peculiar beauties of situation.

BONCHURCH VILLAGE.

Taken from Mr. Hadfield's Look-out.

HAVING passed the cottage of St. Boniface, the road proceeds into a quiet and sequestered dell. Its winding descent, attended by a murmuring brook, which at its length spreading by the road side, as much as it is allowed by the steep base of the impending mountain, (for here the down of St. Boniface assumes that character,) it forms a charming lake at the foot of the nearly perpendicular declivity, bordered by the winding road, overarched by luxuriant trees. The glimpses of the lake and mountain through this foliage, afford some of the finest pictures in all this enchanting scenery. The road is confined to the border of the lake by a steep ridge of hill, that continues through Bonchurch village rising above the intervening sand, that spreads beyond it to the shore. This hill terminates towards the church, which it overlooks by an huge frag-

ment of rock, of singular form, where Mr. Hadfield, proprietor of the adjacent beautiful cottage, has placed a battery and flag-staff. Hence the subject of this view displays itself, affording the very climax of all this wonderful scenery. To proceed gradually to this point, enjoying each object in the fine succession of beauties, is the advantage of commencing with the other end of the Undercliff, as no other part would afford equal pleasure. But as a distinct scene, the greatest effect is to be produced by approaching from Shanklin, when, on a turn of the road descending the hill, by the precipice called Bonchurch Shute, the whole blaze of wonders bursts at once upon the sight: all appear a scene of Fairy Land beneath. Yet the mind somewhat recoils at the approach, by such an abrupt and seemingly impracticable descent, menaced by the chaos of rocky masses that stand countlessly dispersed, suspended midway from the impending summit!

At our feet are the farm and church, the pretty whimsical cottage of Mr. and Mrs. Hill, and the singularly neat line of rustic habitations that compose the village of Bonchurch, overlooked by the

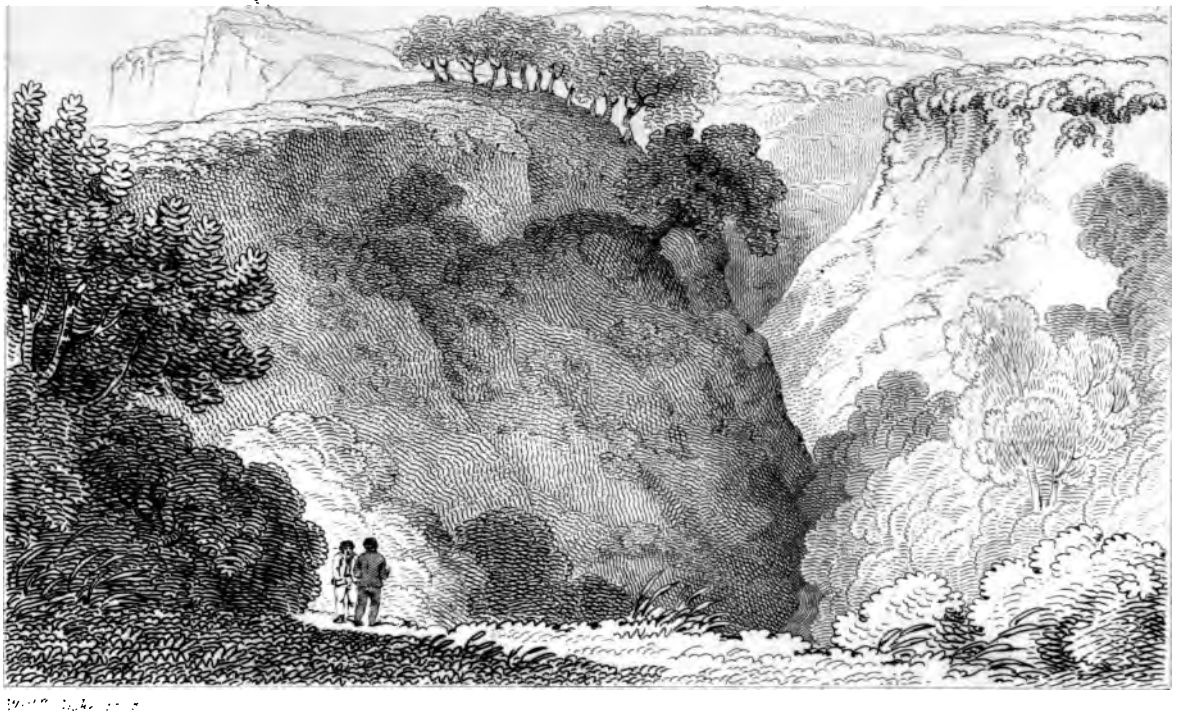
embellished residence of Mr. Hadfield, whose plantations crown every tempting fragment of the wild rocky maze above. The largest and most singular of them all, in front across the road, is pre-eminently marked by its mimic guise of defence from the sea, its battery and standard.

SHANKLIN CHINE.

Looking Inwards.

Of the famed beauties of this island, amid the attractions that draw the visitor of taste, and form the subject of pleasing recollection, Shanklin Chine ranks deservedly in the highest class. Whether it be visited independently of any other succession of objects, or made a part of the enchanting Southern Tour, it must be equally noticed with the highest feelings of delight.

Of this, as well as the rival Chine of Black Gang, two views are requisite to a full taste of the beauties of the scene. The first from the upper part, which here draws the eye to the interior, as shewing the striking character of this chine. The other from near the mouth of the chasm on the other side, representing some other varieties of picturesque objects in the interior, with a distant view of



the grand neighbouring cliffs, that terminate this side of the island.

It may not be disagreeable to the reader to introduce him to this chine, with a short account of the road hither from Bonchurch, leaving whose magic scene the road winds over the steep ascent impending over the promontory of Dunnose, but still seems only to skirt the foot of the mountain eminence of Wroxall, and Shanklin Downs. Having attained the heights above Luccombe (whose chine is an inferior specimen of the nature of that of Shanklin), a new scene of extent and beauty is displayed. The deep expanse of shore from Dunnose to the extremity of the Culver Cliffs: Luccombe and Shanklin Chines, and the whole sweep of Sandown Bay, bounded by the chalky rampart of the Culvers. Beyond is seen the coast of Sussex, sometimes almost to Beachy Head. The high distant land of Hampshire, and the Portsdown hill, appears over the bay, between Bembridge and Brading Downs, the ridge of downs continues to stretch along the island as far as the eye can reach. To the left

Shanklin Down continues beyond that of Wroxall immediately above us. The church and village of Shanklin are placed luxuriantly in front, and the vale of Newchurch may be traced through its whole course beyond.

We now approach the beautiful retired village of Shanklin. At the commencement of a richly wooded dale, sloping from the downs, at a considerable elevation above the shore, stands the church, a small edifice, simply rustic in appearance. On either side, as we proceed, are scattered a few neat and pleasant cottages, that embellish the approach to the chine. Here we find a different style from that of Black Gang: while partaking of the grand and awful, this scenery has much more of beauty in it.

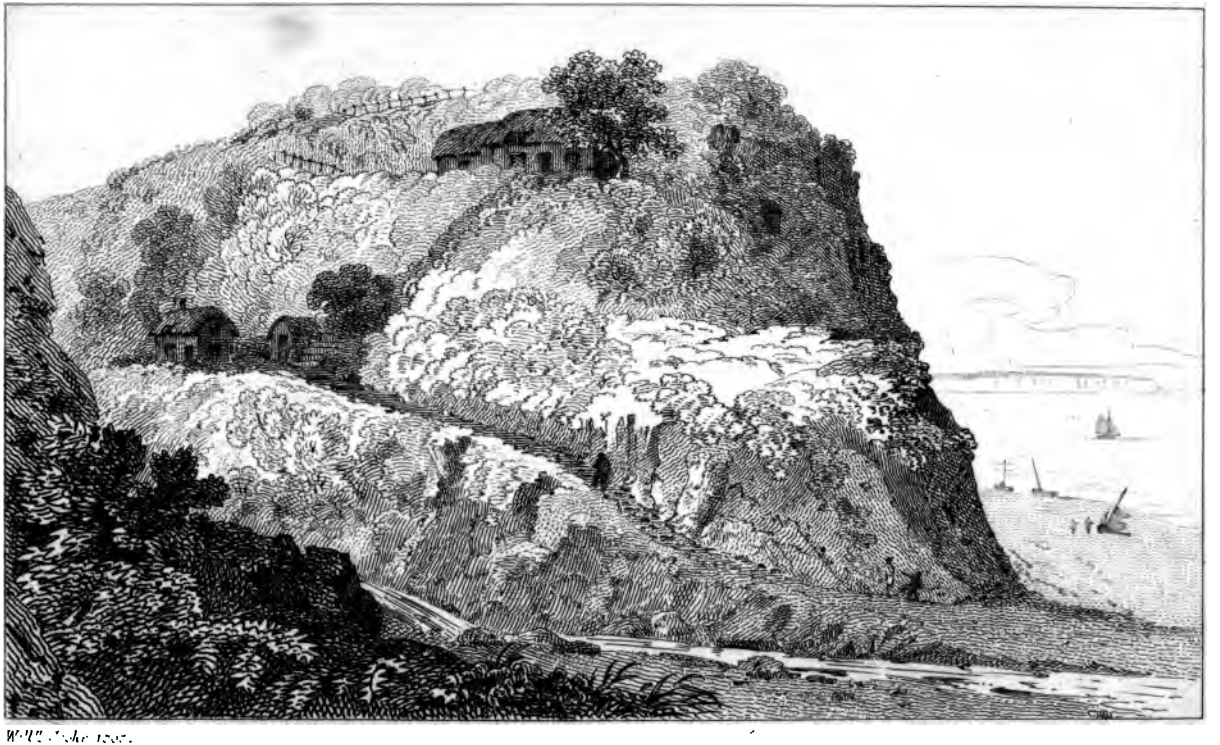
The accumulated springs from the semicircular range of Wroxall and Shanklin Downs, joined into one rapid stream above the church, has forced its winding course through the softest parts of the strata of soil and clay, amidst the fine trees and underwood, giving the winding form which in this chine is so particularly interesting. We can-

not fail to be charmed with the rich clothing of its nearly perpendicular, or boldly sloping sides, where the many fine trees and shrubs, that shoot up in beautiful luxuriance, are such as have been left by the continual torrents, being more firmly rooted than the many that must have been torn, or washed away, and precipitated to the beach below.

This first point of view will easily be found in the way from the little inn to the top of the descent to the beach.

The course of the torrents that have formed this chine, has given its whole progress a serpentine direction; from the stream above the village it takes two bold and finely circuitous curves, to its wide opening to the sea. A little below the inn the stream is hemmed in between hard rocks, over which it bursts, taking a winding course, and falls about twenty feet. Below this the cavity widens, taking two bold sweeps, till the stream reaches the shore. On either side the lofty banks are continually trickling down with the gushing of various springs, that make their way incessantly into the cavity; thus constantly enlarging it, by carry-

ing down portions of its softer strata. Here the perpendicular sides betwixt which it issues, over the beach, *are near* 300 *feet high, and* 180 *feet asunder*.



SHANKLIN CHINE,

Looking outwards.

CROSSING the stream, before it falls upon the shore, and looking up at the side where we descended, we have the fine subject of the second annexed view.

On two levelled plots above each other, at the eastern extremity, are two cottages of fishermen (one a public house), past which the winding descent of alternate path and steps, leads to the shore. Looking up from hence the chine presents the happiest mixture of the grand and beautiful, the awful and the pleasing: the most chearful scenes of rural life, suspended in the yawning gulph amid the most threatening precipices.

Beyond the beach below, whose extent possesses the finest characteristic scenery that the boldest sea coast can possibly present, we have on the one hand the fine display of the Culver Cliffs, terminating the

ample sweep of Sandown Bay. On the other, the grand cliffs towards Dunnose, whose imposing forms must have been already noticed in the former view, raising grandly their towering heads above the side of the chine, and its corn-fields, which extend along the brink of these cliffs, in the direction of Luccombe and Bonchurch.

BRADING CHURCH.

We shall just run eastward to *Brading*, a small place in itself, but entitled to attention on account of its wide and fair spreading haven. The celebrated *Sir Hugh Middleton*, the memorable projector of the New River near London, once endeavoured to exclude the entrance of the sea by an embankment of a peculiar construction. The church has been pronounced the oldest in the island, and its adjacent cemetery commands an enchanting prospect. Here are several pleasing epitaphs to be found, better than in most country church-yards. We shall select *two:* the first has great poetical merit, and has been set to music by Dr. Calcott with a singularly plaintive effect:

ON MRS. BERRY.

Forgive, blest shade! the tributary tear
That mourns thy exit from a world like this;
Forgive the wish that would have kept thee here,
And stay'd thy progress to the seats of bliss.

No more confin'd to grov'ling scenes of night;
No more a tenant, pent in mortal clay,
Now should we rather hail thy glorious flight,
And trace thy journey to the realms of day!

The other epitaph is inscribed on the grave of an *infant;* it possesses great simplicity—

This lovely bud, so young, so fair,
Call'd hence by early doom;
Just come to show how sweet a flower
In Paradise would bloom!

In the vicinity of *Brading* and its *haven* is the famous road of *St. Helens.* Here our men of war and our merchantmen ride in safety, and take in their provision before they bid their last adieu to old England! The appearance of the ships at anchor off *St. Helens,* has a picturesque effect, connected with an interesting idea of their destination to the most distant parts of the world.

The earliest charter of Brading is dated in the reign of *Edward the Sixth;* and it is still governed by a senior and junior bailiff, a recorder, and thir-

teen jurats. The common seal is encircled with this motto—THE KYNGE'S TOWNE OF BRADYNGE. In the church is the burial-place of the *Oglander* family.

GATCOMBE HOUSE.

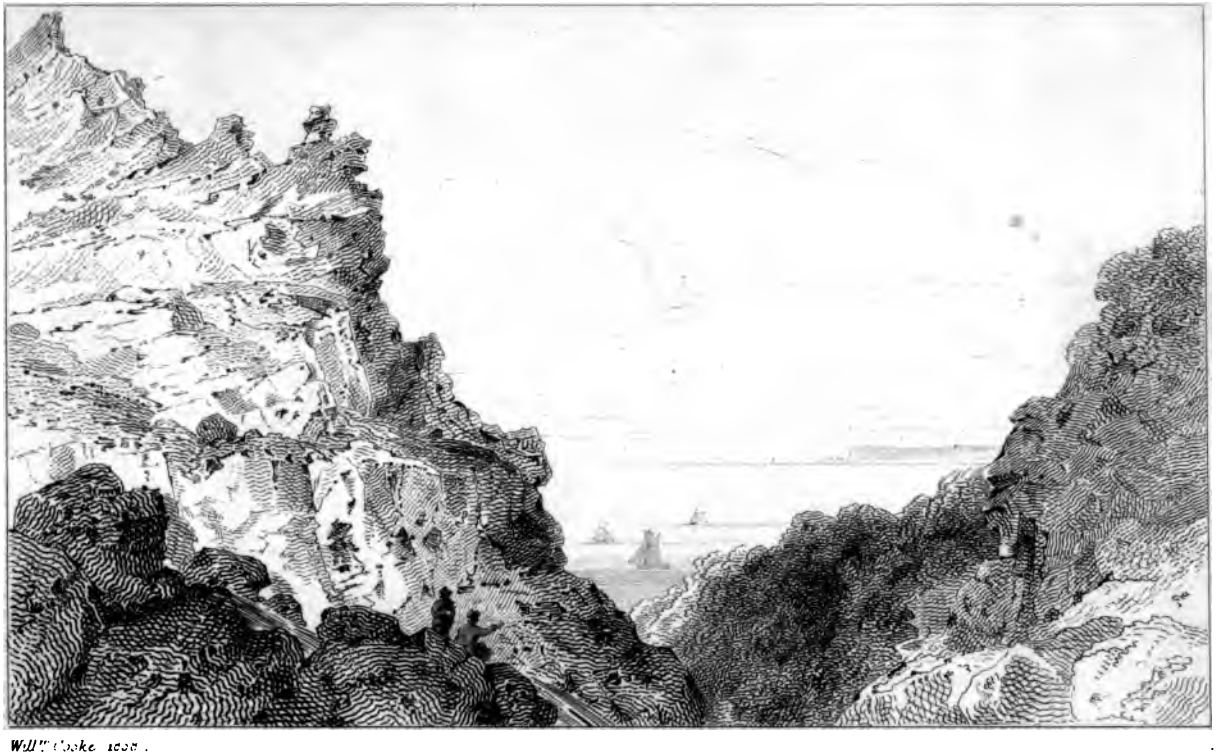
Seat of Col. Campbell.

To the south of Carisbrook Castle, well situated under the downs, which there decline to the south-eastward, stands Gatcombe-house, a seat of the Worsley family, now the property of Col. Campbell, by marriage with an heiress of the Worsleys.

This mansion-house was rebuilt by Sir Ed. Worsley in 1750. It is a stately building, having some resemblance to Apuldercombe; before it is a fine lawn, over which the house commands a fine prospect along the vale of Newchurch. It is backed by the Downs behind. To the west is the church, whose square tower and elevated pinnacles stand on the rising ground above the river Medina, which flows slowly along past the house. The lofty pines which surround it display the stately appearance of its white walls, and shew the church-tower to great advantage.

Will.m Cooke del.

Holcombe House. A. Lamert.d Esq.r Isle of Wight.



Will.m Cooke. 1808.

BLACK GANG CHINE,

Looking Outwards.

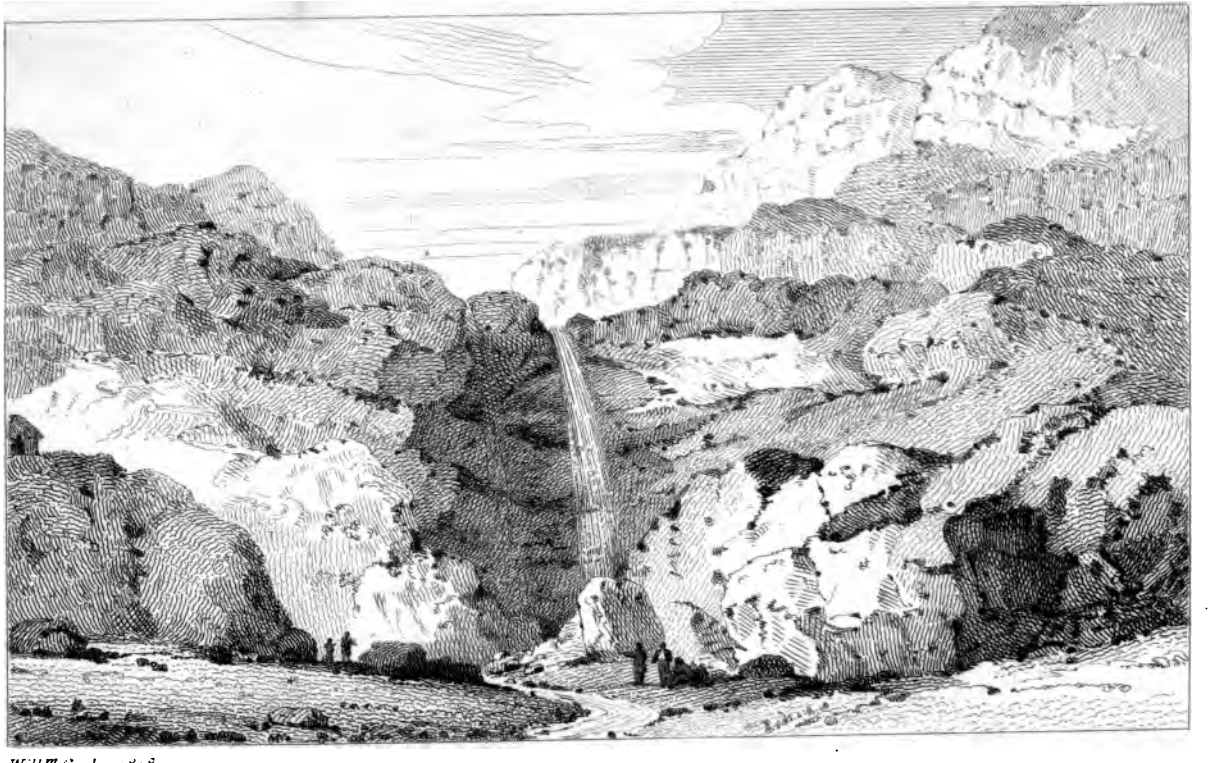
This feature of the wild scenery that marks the rocky shore towards the English Channel, well merits the notice of all lovers of the romantic and sublime. Though from its remote situation, and being rather out of the regular course of the principal tours, it sometimes escapes observation, yet this, as well as the summit of St. Catherine's, ought certainly to be explored by every traveller whose time is not limited. This may be done by suspending the progress of the southern tour at Niton, to ascend St. Catherine's hill, whose summit commands a prospect of almost every part of the island, with the Hampshire coast beyond, and the Dorsetshire hills, extending to St. Alban's Head, and Portland Island. Now and then, in the clearest weather, may even be seen the highest part of the opposite French coast adjoining Cherbourgh; but this is rare to the sight

BLACK GANG CHINE,

From the Beach.

This view is of the cavern below, into which falls the stream that has flowed down the course of this awful chasm. This is of itself a striking object.

The waters from above having rushed through their craggy bed, the work of a long course of wintry torrents, through the long shelving declivity from the high land above, they at last meet the hard rocky edge of the steep cliff, or rather have cleared away the cliff to this hard ledge, about an hundred feet above the level of the shore. Here the sheet of water precipitates itself in a cataract, after heavy rains, that has hollowed a bason beneath, whence it flows on over the pebbly beach of Chale Bay into the sea. In finer weather, and during the period when it is usually visited by travellers, it is only a small stream that trickles over the perpendicular edge, and falls like the sea spray into its bason beneath.



Will.m Cooke, 1803.

Pl. 1. Indians Native from the Beach. Isle of Wight.

The cliff being of softer quality lower down, its trickling inwards, and occasional dashing over some jutting pieces of rock, has hollowed a cavity some yards within the falling stream; so that we may stand inside, looking through the shower that falls without, admiring its prismatic colours when opposed to the sun's rays, or receive its gentle dropping on our heads, a natural shower bath.

This cavern has a solemn and almost awful aspect, having the black mineral-like appearance that pervades in strata the cliffs above. These stratas have the resemblance of an ascent of gigantic steps, whence, probably, and from its frowning aspect, it derives its name. An adjoining chine, of much inferior magnitude, is known by the name of *Ladder Chine*, from the same appearance of the strata which characterizes the cliffs of Chale Bay for a considerable extent.

APPULDURCOMBE.

THIS splendid residence presents a display of magnificence and classic taste that render it the pride of the island, while it deservedly ranks with the first abodes of wealth and splendour. The principal approach is by way of Godshill, through a fine gateway, in the form of a triumphal arch, by which we enter the park, which is diversified in surface, and enriched with picturesque groups of noble trees. It is on two sides bounded by lofty downs; the one surmounted by an obelisk; the other marked by a pleasing object of imaginary ruins, called Cook's Castle. On the slope of the down that bounds the park to the west, stands the stately mansion, a grand pile of freestone, with four regular fronts: the apartments are distributed in regular suite, and fitted up in a sumptuous style: they contain a capital collection of paintings and sculptures, an excellent library, a choice collection of medals, and various other rarities. The whole classically selected

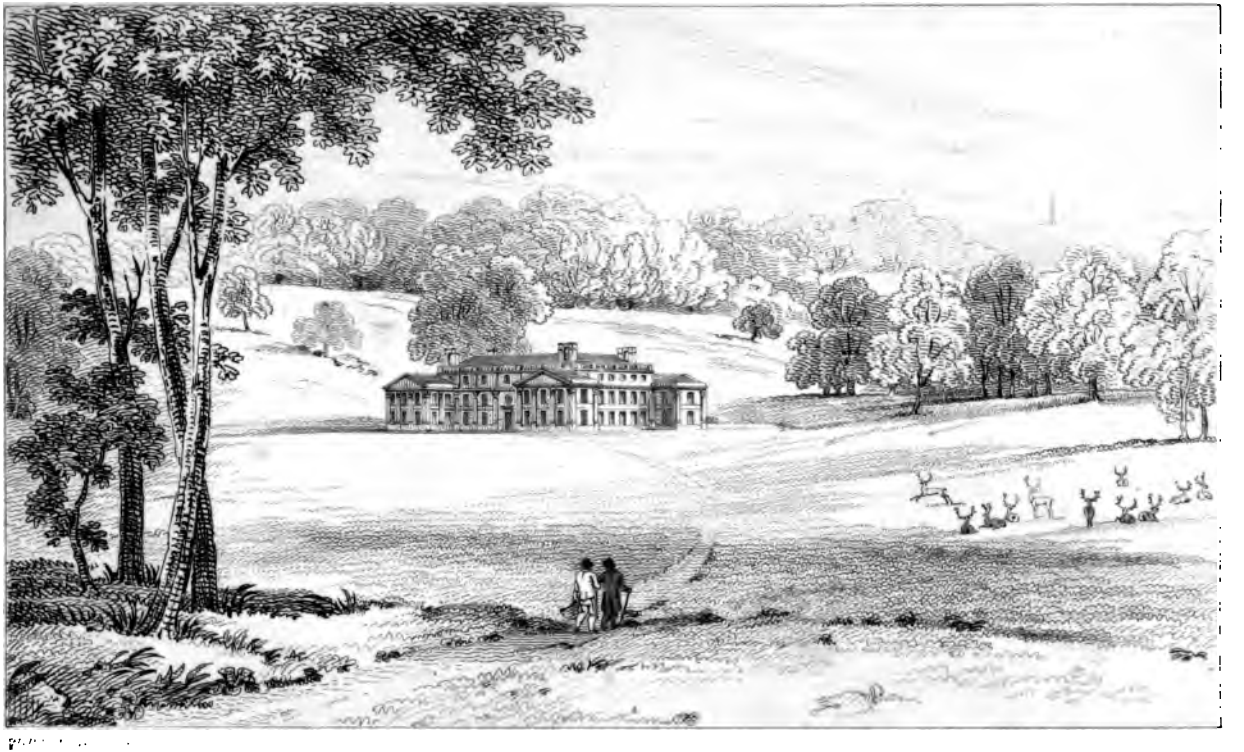
by the late Sir Rich. Worsley, during his travels abroad, and here carefully arranged according to a printed catalogue, one of which is deposited in the British Museum. Amongst the pictures are particularly to be remarked two large landscapes by Zuccarrelli. The *School of Athens*, a fine classic composition by Tresham. *A grand Descent* from the Cross, by Daniel da Volterra. *St. Jerome in the Wilderness*, by Salvator Rosa: and Lawrence's celebrated portrait of *Kemble, in Coriolanus*. Several excellent Dutch and Flemish paintings are also to be noticed. The statues and busts form likewise a fine collection.

From the obelisk is one of the finest of prospects, extending nearly throughout the island.

Appuldurcombe now belongs to ——— Pelham, in right of his wife, the niece and heiress of Sir R. Worsley. It is rather a singular circumstance that the name of this place should be derived from *three* Welsh words, *Y Pwll y dwr y cwm*, signifying *the pool of water in the hollow, or recess of a hill*. The spot, therefore, is of *ancient British* celebrity.

COWES CASTLE AND HARBOUR.

THE busy and animated scene that forms the subject of this plate, may, we think, be properly introduced by a short notice of the passage hither from Southampton, one of the principal approaches to the island. In fine weather the voyage down Southampton river, and across to Cowes, is delightful. Southampton has a noble appearance from the water, adorned by Lord Lansdown's new-erected castle, that towers pre-eminent above all the other buildings. The fine adjacent villas, rising inland above the town, or sloping to the river Itchen, give a richness and gaiety to the scene. Lower down are the interesting ruins of Netley Abbey, at a little distance above the shore, almost hidden by the surrounding wood, but the little fort of Netley is a pleasing object near the water's edge. Farther on we pass Hamble church, and the stately mansion of Governor Hornby, the most interesting objects on this shore. On the other side of the river we



Wm. Cooke 1808.

Cowes Castle & Harbour, Isle of Wight.

have passed the pretty village of Hythe, with its ferry from Southampton into the New Forest. Near this is the stately structure of Cadlands, the seat of Mr. Drummond: farther on the sequestered village of Fawley, embowered in the forest; and the lofty tower of Eaglehurst is seen in this direction, rearing its head over the land. Reaching the mouth of the river, we pass Calshot Castle, almost situated, and seeming to float upon the waves: stretching now across to the island, we open a fine prospect of the shore of the New Forest towards Lymington. The first and most striking object now is Eaglehurst, whose stately tower, and pretty pavilions, are well disclosed amidst its rich plantations on the high shore.

In the opposite direction of the Hampshire coast we see as far as Gosport, Portsmouth, and Spithead, whose anchored navy terminates the prospect. Not far from these appear the merchant ships at the Motherbank; and before us extends the shore of the island, from Ryde to Cowes, and thence continuing towards Yarmouth. The fine lofty downs rear their distant heads in the back ground. Ap-

proaching now to Cowes harbour, which is formed by the mouth of the river Medina, the eye is delighted by a numerous assemblage of striking and beautiful objects on both sides. Old Castle Point, the outer land to the left, is crowned majestically by the turrets of Norris, and adorned by the fine hanging foliage that descends its sloping banks. East and West Cowes, with their charming villas, now unfold themselves to the sight. The banks of the river up to Newport, the distant downs that enclose the capital on either side, with the majestic hill of St. Catherine's beyond, and towering above all other objects, intervening. These, with Cowes Castle, our nearest object on the right bank, and the various vessels at anchor in the roads, form the rich picture of which the annexed view gives an idea of a considerable part.

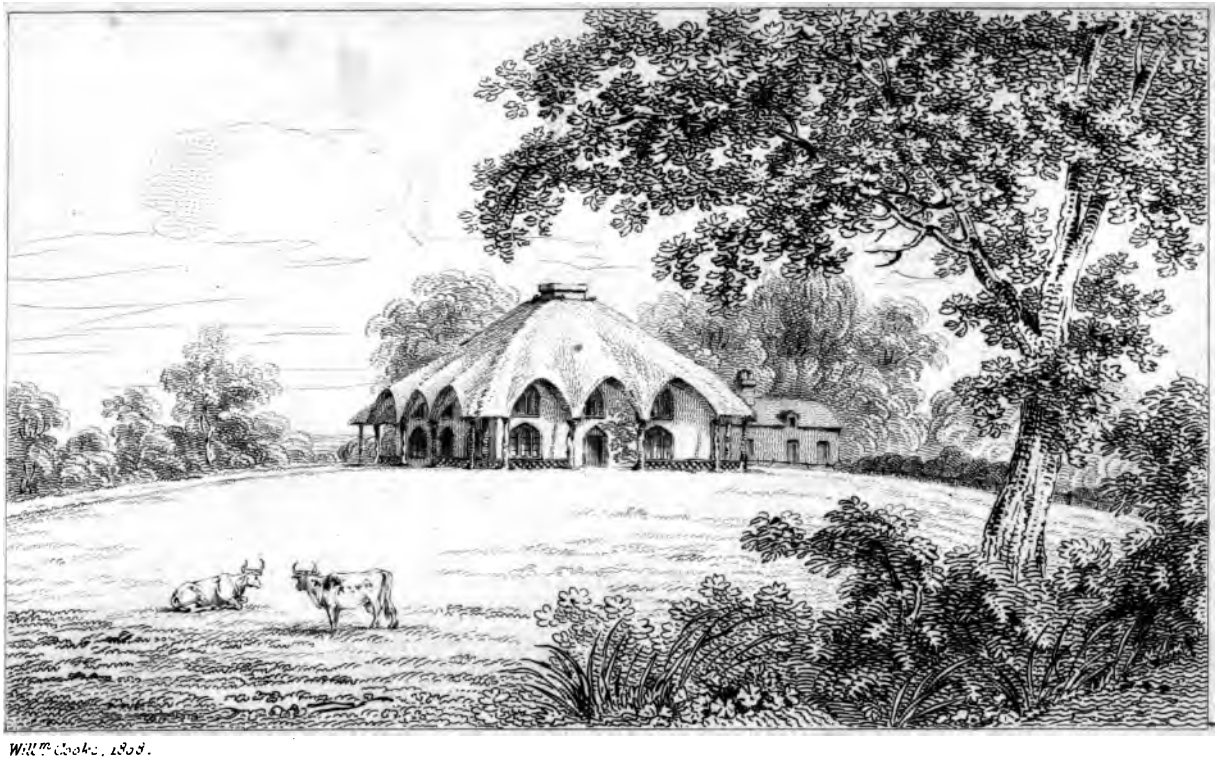
WESTHILL COTTAGE, NEAR COWES,

Late General Whitelock's.

NEAR the entrance of West Cowes, from Newport, is the picturesque cottage called Westhill, the subject of the present view. It was originally built by the late Admiral Sir Hugh Christian, K. B. and afterwards became the property of General Whitelock, when commander of the military depot, who made the present improvements. The situation is convenient, and well chosen for prospect; and the pretty rural style in which its commodious accommodations are constructed, render it at once an embellishment to the neighbourhood, and a desirable residence. The thatch is disposed in a picturesque manner, and the trellis work around its lower windows is highly ornamental.

The lawn and plantations around it are pleasing, and though so close to the populous town of West Cowes, yet it is as much retired as if it were more

remote. The view across the river, which flows not far below, presents the fine scenery and ornamented villas of East Cowes; from which, in return, this charming cottage is a pleasing object. It has been lately offered to sale, and we have not yet been able to ascertain the purchaser.



Willm Cooke, 1808.

COTTAGE AT EAST COWES.

THE pretty cottage of Mr. Wallis on the hill above East Cowes, is here selected as a charming specimen of the kind of taste so prevalent and suitable to the pastoral situations of the island. Its whole construction presents the extreme of rural simplicity. The thatched roof gently falling around the upper windows, supported by a series of rustic pillars, formed by natural trunks of trees, affords a covered walk of delightful shelter around the cottage casements, which are modestly entwined with the jessamine and woodbine.

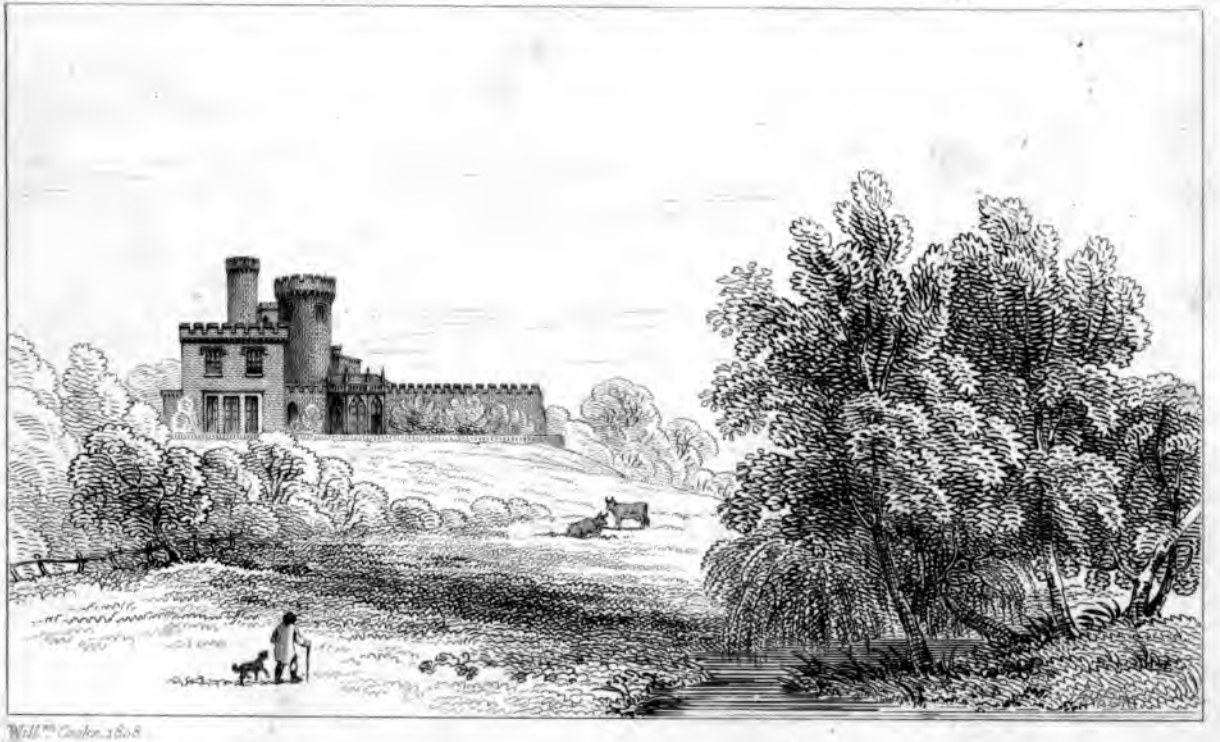
Its situation is agreeable, on the fine elevation at the confluence of the roads from Whippingham and Norris, above the descent to East Cowes. It stands at the extremity of a lawn, contiguous to Mr. Nash's villa, with which it harmonizes agreeably, and affords a delicious summer retreat; while, from situation, it is neither damp nor dreary even in the midst of winter.

EAST COWES CASTLE.

Villa of J. Nash, Esq.

THIS embellishment to the delightful neighbourhood of East Cowes, adorns the summit of the hill above the town, where, after passing the charming villas on either side ascending, the road turns in the direction of Whippingham and Newport.

Here Mr. Nash, the architect, has shewn his judgment in the choice of situation for a command of unrivalled prospect, through the extent of which this building is placed as a conspicuous object. He has not less exhibited his elegant taste in the style of this building, to which considerable additions are now taking place, that without injuring its simplicity, will render it at once of more importance as a distant object, while they increase its domestic convenience as a residence. These are adding at the farther end from that which forms the subject of the view. A line of embattled apartments, somewhat



Will.m Cooke. 1808

East Cowes Castle, I. Nash Esq.r Isle of Wight

in the style of Norris, are to be terminated in a square tower, which will contain some good apartments, and command more peculiarly the inland prospect, while the apartments here seen enjoy the fine scenery of West Cowes, and the mouth of the river.

The grounds are singularly striking, sloping downwards, possessing a park-like appearance, though on no very large scale, abounding with groups of elegant foliage. Below the elegant villa of Mr. Auldjo terminates the sylvan scene of this retreat, over which, and on either hand to a great extent, the lofty turrets of the villa command a prospect of unrivalled beauty. The Medina winding upwards to Newport, which appears hemmed in by the ridge of downs on either side, between which we descry the hollow of the valley to the southward, bounded by the grand form of St. Catherine's, that rears itself to fill the centre of the distance. In the western extremity of view the chalky cliffs towards the Needles raise their white eminences distinctly above the high intervening land. More in front is West

Cowes, whose numerous buildings stud the opposite hill; and the busy scene of shipping that crowd the river's mouth, gives to the prospect an uncommon degree of animation.

W. H. Cooke, 1808.

NORRIS,

The Seat of Lord Henry Seymour.

THE island has here to boast its most stately ornament, placed on the conspicuous northern point opposite the main land. In this situation, which was recently occupied by a farm, whose advantages must have struck the eye of taste, has Lord H. Seymour erected a noble mansion, in a style of grandeur which Mr. Wyatt has adapted, at once for the ornament of the neighbourhood, and the enjoyment of its peculiar advantages.

The hill that rises above East Cowes crowns the mouth of the river Medina, to the eastward, with a fine eminence, extending in that direction, and boldly sloping to the shore. The northern extremity, called Old Castle Point, from a fort which exists no longer, is the commencement of this estate, which extends to the summit where the road approaches from East Cowes, passing a lofty

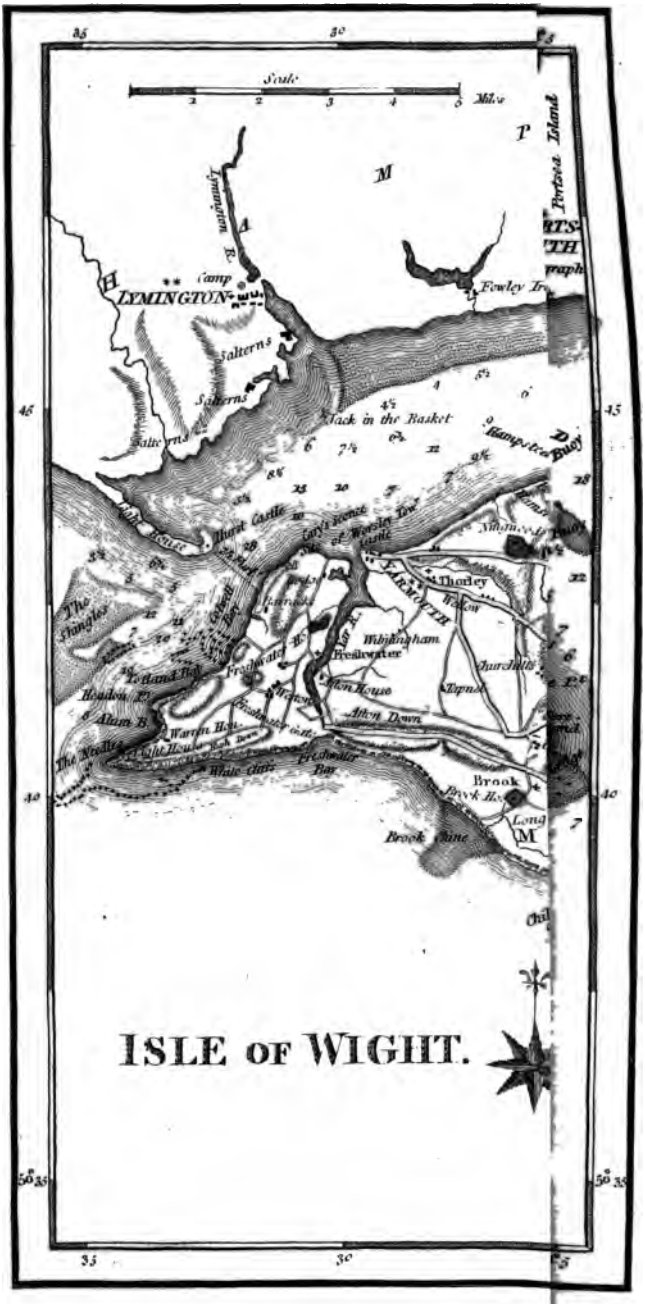
tower, placed as a lodge and sea mark on the highest ground, and descending a little the fine slope, the noble pile appears, displaying its stately elegance, and enjoying in comfortable grandeur all the charms of view almost unbounded.

Looking past its extended range of castellated turrets, in the distance appears the fine expanse of water, dividing the island from the main land. The New Forest and Southampton river, the Hampshire coast to Portsmouth, and beyond till the distance fades upon the eye, while the shipping of every kind at the Motherbank, and the proud navy at Spithead, afford a picture than which a finer cannot well be conceived.

The grounds descend with a bold slope to the water's edge, and rise finely upwards above the mansion, abounding with fine trees, and ornamented by a range of building at a distance, in a corresponding style, that within embattled walls and turret crowned gateways includes all the conveniences of stabling and farm: the ground being at once devoted to rural improvement as well as ornamental elegance.

The view is taken from a little below, towards the river, giving the bold slope of the grounds extending to the shore. The long range of stately battlements, with the intervening turrets, impart an air of grandeur to the numerous apartments at this end, though mostly servants' rooms. The principal apartments are at the farther end, comprising the large square and round tower; whence is the noble view along the island, and across to the main land.

The other side, which is the principal front, is still more stately: there is a grand entrance, through a massive gate, into an inner court, surrounded by offices of every description. The principal building at the eastern end embellishes the view from Ryde and Portsmouth.


Scale
Miles
Portsea Island
Lymington R.
LYMINGTON
Camp
Fawley
Salterns
Jack in the Basket
Hamstead Buoy
Hurst Castle
Thorley
Yarmouth
Freshwater
Brook
ISLE OF WIGHT.

VOYAGE

ROUND THE ISLAND.

VOYAGE

ROUND THE ISLAND.

To those who are fond of excursions on the water, the Voyage round the Island will prove one of the most interesting and delightful that this country will afford.

The harbours of Cowes and Ryde abound with safe and commodious vessels, navigated by experienced pilots: the voyage may be performed in one day; but, with less favourable winds and tides, easily in two: the charges for the vessel being regulated accordingly. I shall give a sketch of a voyage from Ryde of each of these descriptions. The first performed in two days, sailing to the west-

ward, passing the night at Yarmouth, and finishing the circuit next day. The other performed in one day, with most favourable winds and tides; sailing eastward at starting, to St. Helens and the Culver Cliffs, and passing Dunnose and the back of the island, in time to take the next flood tide through the Needles, and so to make good the passage back to Ryde the same night.

Leaving Ryde at six or seven o'clock in the morning; a beautiful wood embellishes the shore; embosomed in which we perceive the simple church and charming cottage-parsonage of Binstead: the scite of the once venerable abbey of Quarr, and the opening of Fishbourn Creek. Here we catch a view of Wooton Bridge; the church and farm of Wooton, and the lofty tower of the elegant mansion of Fernhill. A continuation of a well wooded shore still attends us, as we pass King's-key; the scene of King John's temporary retirement, while withdrawing from the contest with his Barons, in expectation of succours from France.

We next approach Old Castle Point, now embellished by a remarkable Gothic edifice, called Norris

Lodge, the residence of Lord Henry Seymour: then opening the harbour of Cowes, formed by the mouth of the river Medina, the eye is at once delighted by a numerous assemblage of striking and beautiful objects on both sides. East and West Cowes, with their charming villas; the bank of the river up to Newport; the distant downs, with the majestic St. Catherines, are seen towering above all. These, with Cowes Castle, and the various vessels at anchor in the roads, together afford one of the richest views to be met with in the compass of the whole voyage.

Turning our eyes to the opposite shore of Hampshire, especially if the wind should require a tack to the northward, we view the mouth of Southampton river, defended by Calshot Castle, which seems floating in the waves. A little farther on this side the view is heightened by the picturesque appearance of Eaglehurst, the seat of the Earl of Cavan, originally built by the late Temple Luttrell, the lofty tower of which is known amongst the seamen by the name of Luttrell's Folly.

Proceeding again along the shore of the island, we pass Egypt, no otherwise striking than by name;

Gurnett Bay affords pretty scenery, continued into the wider expanse of Thorness Bay, rising over which we perceive the western ridge of downs of Gatcombe, Buccombe, Shorwell, &c. which continue to Freshwater and the Needles. Swainston, Sir John Barrington's, may be traced at a distance. This bay continues to Newtown Harbour, and beyond that is bounded by Hampstead Lodge.

Hereabouts is a convenient situation for such a repast as the voyagers may be able to take on the deck of their little vessel, which, however homely and indifferently served, will probably give some relish, from the fine air and agreeable surrounding scenery.

This is mentioned under the idea of proceeding as far as the Needles, and returning for the night to Yarmouth; but if it is thought preferable, the repast may be deferred till the party have arrived at Yarmouth; and the view of Allum Bay and the Needles may be deferred until the progress of the voyage next morning.

Leaving Thorness Bay we proceed past Hampstead farm, pleasantly situated on a commanding

eminence. Turning our eyes to the opposite coast, the New Forest spreads its rich expanse of wood, and Lymington rises conspicuous from the shore.

By this time we have arrived at Yarmouth, which we may pass, to proceed to the Needles, and return; or we may at once land and enjoy comfortable accommodations for the night.

Leaving Yarmouth, Norton Lodge is a pleasing object, across the mouth of the river Yar. The shores of Colwell and Totland Bays are picturesque; and should a number of ships be passing, the effect will be particularly striking.

The Needles, as we gain sight of them, present a series of grand and pleasing scenery: the gradual opening of Allum Bay is peculiarly interesting. When the inner corner of this bay is opened, clear of the point of Totland Bay, called Hetherwood Point, the eye is regaled by an assemblage of beautifully variegated tints; yellows, heightened with reds; these enriching and contrasting with the white of the farther cliff. The rugged variations of surface may be attempted in a drawing; but the nicest study of the painter would be required to

present an idea of the colouring. On the opposite side we have to observe the singular situation of Hurst Castle, more remarkable still than that of Calshot.

Beyond this, the Hampshire shore recedes as far as Christchurch; and then, in a semicircular sweep, the Dorsetshire coast appears, from Poole to Peverel Point.

As we approach the Needles, it may afford much amusement to take to the boat; and, while the vessel sails outside, we may pass betwixt those romantic rocks through Scratchell's Bay, and proceed close under the awful cliffs of Mainbench as far as Freshwater Gate. During this incidental excursion we may enjoy the diversion of shooting the various sorts of birds with which the cliffs abound.

Returning to the vessel in Freshwater Bay, we have now a farther view of the Dorsetshire coast, stretching to the westward, beyond Peverel Point, memorable for the loss of the Halswell, as far as St. Alban's Head and Portland; though this latter can hardly be seen except from the highest part of the shore. Making sail from Freshwater Gate, we

pass through the remainder of that bay, and coast successively through Brixton and Chale Bays; over whose shores we observe the villages of Brook, Motteston, Brixton, and Shorwell, with the ridge of downs above them. Before we arrive off Rocken End, the point under St. Catherine's, we may catch a view of Blackgang Chine, which, if we can approach the shore, will appear advantageously from this situation.

This part of the voyage has its scenery majestically bounded by St. Catherine's, whose cliffs descend to the shore, round which we gain sight of the most charming objects of the voyage. As here, at the cliff under St. Catherine's, from which has recently tumbled the grand landslip of Knoles, commences the romantically beautiful display of Undercliff, extending to Bonchurch and Dunnose. For a more particular description of the scenery of the coast, we may turn to the next voyage. To enjoy it as much as possible, the vessel should lay to, if practicable, near the shore, off St. Lawrence, Steephill, or Ventnor; and dinner may conveniently be taken while in this delightful situation.

We now make sail, with every gratification that scenery the most exquisite of its kind can afford the voyage; though to many, it must be confessed, that the voyage itself may much diminish the enjoyment. Passing Dunnose, we enjoy the fine expansive bay, from thence to Culver Cliff, which will arrest forcibly our attention. Then passing Bembridge Point, St. Helens Road, Spithead, and the Motherbank, we arrive at Ryde; and, if not too much prejudiced against the watery element, and too fastidious to be satisfied with nautical conveniences, shall probably feel highly gratified by the voyage, and much benefited by the sea air, and the moderate exercise afforded by the motion of the vessel.

This is undoubtedly the best way to attain a general knowledge of the island. After this the different tours through it will be better understood, and will make much more impression than without this advantage; to which we shall likewise be indebted for some of the finest views, which are only to be had from the sea.

The other voyage is performed from Ryde by

starting to the eastward, passing Spithead and St. Helens Road, embellished by the interesting appearance of our floating castles, the best bulwarks of our insular empire. The Hampshire coast affords a fine display of the country from Portsmouth to Chichester, continuing as far as the low promontory of Selsea Bill, and bounded by the rising hills from Portsdown to Arundel and Shoreham.

From Ryde a beautifully wooded shore extends to St. Helens, comprising the delightful scenes of Appley, St. John's, Fairy Hill, Seagrove, and the Priory. Into this part of the coast Brading Harbour finely breaks the view, over which rises Brading Down, spreading upon the Culver Cliffs; and beyond the level of Sandown Bay, we perceive the distant downs of Shanklin and Wroxall. The prospect extends beyond Appuldurcombe to St. Catherine's, which rises conspicuously in the distance.

Passing Bembridge Ledge, so dangerous to shipping, and noted for the recent loss of the Henry Addington East Indiaman, we gradually pass the extremity of the Culver Cliffs. Here we open the expanse of Sandown Bay, and successively remark the fort

of Sandown, the once celebrated cottage of the late Mr. Wilkes, now appearing merely an appendage to the contiguous barracks; and farther on, the chines of Shanklin and Luccombe. The view is here bounded by the remarkable promontory of Dunnose.

Passing Dunnose through the Race of Bonchurch, an enchanting scene discloses itself to our sight: the coast totally changes its appearance, and assumes a character peculiar to this spot alone. The Undercliff commences here, extends for six miles, till it terminates at St. Catherine's.

The lofty downs which form the grand barrier of this south-eastern part of the island, rise majestically beyond Dunnose, from which the beautifully romantic land of Undercliff has, by repeated convulsions, been detached, and has gradually spread its fertile boardering along the coast. Its shore is again finely broken and indented by numerous white cliffs, which are disposed in mimic majesty here and there, affording a miniature resemblance to the great Albion Cliffs of Culver and Freshwater. Between these are several charming coves, or little

bays; at Bonchurch, Ventnor, Steephill, St. Lawrence, and Puckaster, affording convenient spots for bathing, and decorated by the charming scenery of various marine cottages, or villas, of Bonchurch, St. Boniface, Steephill, St. Lawrence, and Mirables, with some pleasing novelties in the neighbourhood of Niton, particularly the conspicuous house at Westcliff, which now pleasingly terminates this series of beauties.

This slip of land, spreading from the high downs to the sea shore, for an unparalleled course of six miles, enriched by these beautiful retreats, so highly favoured by nature, so much embellished by true taste, is acknowledged to form a picture unique in itself.

It must be seen to be fully comprehended, and then cannot fail to impress the beholder with delight.

Next to the actual sight, a faint idea may be formed, from careful delineations, of some of the principal points of view. Some benefit may likewise be derived from them, by assisting the pleasing recollections of those who have been so happy as

to see this earthly paradise. Passing St. Catherine's, we now proceed along the coast already noticed in the former voyage, which can now be referred to for the remainder of this, reversing only the order, as we now sail from east to west, till we pass round the Needles, and then go to the eastward back to Ryde.

The repast may now be taken while passing Chale, or Brixton Bays, during the least interesting part of the voyage. If an advanced state of our progress should admit, the diversion of shooting may be taken from Freshwater to Allum Bay. But as this voyage is to be terminated the same night, it will hardly be practicable, unless with a favourable wind and tide, to allow sufficient time for the amusement.

Catching the next flood tide at the Needles we pass through rapidly, and coasting the pleasant shores already described, return with tolerable ease before night to Ryde.

After these two voyages, the traveller will be more perfectly master of the beauties of the island, than even an inhabitant, who had not derived this ad-

vantage. No one who can trust himself upon the watery element, which ought to be so familiar to every Briton, ought to omit such an opportunity of acquiring so much new observation, in addition to the enjoyment of such real pleasure.

ROUTES OF THE ISLAND.

ROUTES

OF

THE ISLAND.

POINTING out every thing worthy the travellers' observation in the different Tours, the Southern Tour, or Back of the Island, should be reserved for the last, being by far the most interesting.

WESTERN TOUR.

	Miles.
NEWPORT TO CARISBROOK—Castle and Village	1
SHORWELL—Northcourt House, late Richard Bull, Esq. now Miss Bull	4

	Miles.
Brixton	2
Mottestone—Brook Village, Brook House, Mr. Howe, Church	2
Brook Down	2
Freshwater Gate—Public House, Cave, Rocks and Cliffs	4
Needles Point—Needles three remaining, Light House, Extremity Point, Allum Bay, Freshwater Village	3
Back to Freshwater and Yarmouth—Norton, Thorley, Thorley House, Thorley Place, Mrs. Leigh, Ningwood, Sir J. Pinhorn	5
Calbourn—Westover, Rev. Sir. H. Holmes, Froghill, Mr. Barlow	6
Swainston—Sir John Barrington	2
Newport	4
	35

On horseback may return from Freshwater Gate to Newport, over the downs, for eleven miles. May shorten the tour, if too much for one day, by returning to Newport from Freshwater, omitting the ride

over the cliffs, and viewing Yarmouth only at a distance.

NORTH EASTERN TOUR.

	Miles.
NEWPORT TO WOOTTON BRIDGE—Parsonage, Farm, Fernhill, late Samuel Shute, Esq.	4
BINSTEAD—Firestone Wood, Cottage Parsonage, Church, Quarr Abbey	2
RYDE—Appley, Capt. Hutt	2
ST. JOHN'S—Edward Simeon, Esq. Fairy Hill, Rev. H. Oglander, Seagrove	1
PRIORY—Sir Nash Grose	3
ST. HELENS' GREEN—Old Church, Sea Mark, Church	1
BRADING—Church, Nunwell, Sir Wm. Oglander, Bart.	2½
SANDHAM HEATH—Sandown Cottage, late J. Wilkes, Esq. Sandown Fort	2½
BRADING DOWN—Nunwell Down, Signal House	3½

	Miles.
ASHEY SEA MARK—Knighton, G. M. Bisset, Esq.	1½
NEWPORT	5
	28

SOUTHERN TOUR.

NEWPORT TO STANDEN, formerly the residence of the Roberts' family	1½
PIDFORD—Seat of Rev. Sir Henry Holmes, Rookley Cottage, Whitwell on left	1½
NITON—Church, Parsonage, Westcliff House, Mrs. Fawkener, St. Catherine's Hill, 750 feet above high water mark, Black Gang Chine, and Landslip at Knoles	6
ST. LAWRENCE—Mirables, G. Arnold, Esq. small Church, Marine Villa of Sir R. Worsley	3½
STEEPHILL COTTAGE—Earl of Dysart, Ventnor Cottage, Lady Frances Tollemache, Ventnor Cove, New Inn, St. Boniface, Thomas Bowdler, Esq.	1

	Miles.
BONCHURCH—Cottage, Mr. Hadfield, Cottages, Mr. and Mrs. Hill, Church, Landslip East End, Luccombe Chine	2
SHANKLIN—Church, Village, Shanklin Chine	3
ARRETON—Stickworth, Gen. Hethersett . .	6
ST. GEORGE'S DOWN—Shide Bride . . .	2
NEWPORT	2
	28½

NEWPORT TO WHITCOMB	1½
GATCOMBE—Church and Gatcombe House, A. Campbell, Esq.	1½
CHILLERTON FARM	1½
BILLINGHAM—Rev. James Worsley . . .	1
CHALE CHURCH	4
BLACK GANG CHINE AND RETURN . . .	1
ST. CATHERINE'S AND RETURN—St. Catherine's Tower, Signal House	1½
KINGSTON—Church	3
SHORWELL	2
NEWPORT	5
	22

	Miles.
NEWPORT TO PANN, OVER COPPIN'S BRIDGE	1
STANDEN FARM	1½
SHIDE BRIDGE	2
CARISBROOK CASTLE	1
ROUND IT TO NEWPORT	2
	7½

ANOTHER SOUTHERN TOUR.

FROM NEWPORT TO GODSHILL, by Pidford Church	6
WHITWELL—Church	3
PRINCELET SHOOT—Appuldurcombe House	1½
	10½

Return to Steephill, Bonchurch, Shanklin, Arreton, Newport.

RYDE TO BRADING—St. John's, Ed. Simeon, Esq. beautiful Cottage Entrance	4
SANDOWN FORT	2

	Miles.
YAVERLAND—Church, Manor House, Mr. M. Smith	1
BEMBRIDGE DOWN AND CULVER CLIFFS	2
LONGLAND FARM	1
BEMBRIDGE FARM	0½
TO THE WINDMILL	0½
BEMBRIDGE POINT	0½
FORELAND FARM	1
YARBRIDGE	3
BRADING	1
NUNWELL—Sir W. Oglander	1
ASHEY FARM	1
RYDE	3
	21½

INDEX.

A.

AIR, 9.
Allum Bay, 9, 66, 153.
Animals, 10.
Appearance, 11.
Appley, Capt. Hutt, 83.
Appuldurcombe, 132.
Arched Rock in Freshwater Bay, 57.

B.

Barracks, 24.
Binstead Cottage and Church, 80.
Birds at Freshwater Cliffs, 60, 61, 67.
—— Method of catching, 61.
—— An awful example of, 62.
Black Gang Chine, 127, 130.
Bonchurch Village, 113.
Bonchurch Shute, 114.
Boniface, St., T. Bowdler, Esq. 109.
Boundaries, 5.
Brading, 123.
——— Church, 123.

C.

Calshot Castle, Hants, 135, 151.
Carisbrook Castle, 35, 45, 48.
———— Village of, 36, 54.
Catherine's Hill, St. 56, 65, 97, 127.
Chapels at Newport, 20.
Charles the First, Account of his Imprisonment, Note, 49.
Civil History, 14.
Cottage at East Cowes, 139.
——— at West Cowes, 137.
——— of St. Boniface, 109.

Cowes Castle and Harbour, 33, 134.
Cowes, East, 34.
——— West, 32.
Cripple Path, 98.
Culver Cliffs, 117, 121, 157.

D.

Divisions, 6.
Dunnose, 156, 158.

E.

Eaglehurst, Hants, Earl of Cavan, 151.
East Cowes, 34.
——— Castle, J. Nash, Esq. 35, 140.
East Medine, 7.
Ecclesiastical Antiquities, 37.
Extent, 4.

F.

Farringford Hill, E. Rushworth, Esq. 70.
Fairy Hill, Rev. H. Oglander, 157.
Fernhill, Mrs. Shute, 77.
Fertility, 9.
Firestone Wood, 77.
Form of the Island, 5.
Free Grammar-School, 18.
Freshwater Bay, 56, 57, 58.
——— Cave, 63.
Freshwater Cliffs, 58, 67.
——— Birds at, 61, 67.
——— Method of catching do. 61.
——— An awful example of, 62.
Freshwater Gate, 60.

G.

Gatcombe House, Col. Campbell, 126.
Governors, 15.

H.

History, Civil, 14.
——— Military, 12.
——— Natural, 38.
House of Industry, 23.
Hurst Castle, Hants, 154.
Hythe, Hants, 135.

I.

Introductory Account of the Island, 1.
John's, St., E. Simeon, Esq. 86, 89, 90.

K.

Kite-Hill, Major Popham, 77.

L.

Landslip at Knoles, 39.
Learned Men, 40.

Light-House on Freshwater Cliffs, 69.
List of Plates, xiii.
Look-Out, Mr. Hadfield's, 114.
Lodge, or Cottage Entrance to St. John's, 90.

M.

Marina, St. John's, 89.
Marine Villa of the late Sir R. Worsley, 104.
Map of the Island, 163.
Medina River, 136.
Military History, 12.
Mirables, Mrs. Arnold, 102.

N.

Name, 1.
Natural History, 38.
Needles, 67, 69.
Netley Abbey, Hants, 134.
——— Fort, 134.
Newport, 17, 25.
——— Church, 18.
New Inn, 112.
Newtown, 27.
Niton, 11, 96.
Norris, Lord Henry Seymour, 143.
North Court House, Miss Bull, see Preface.
Norton Lodge, Captain Hammond, 72.
Norton Cottage, Mr. Mitchell, 73.

P.

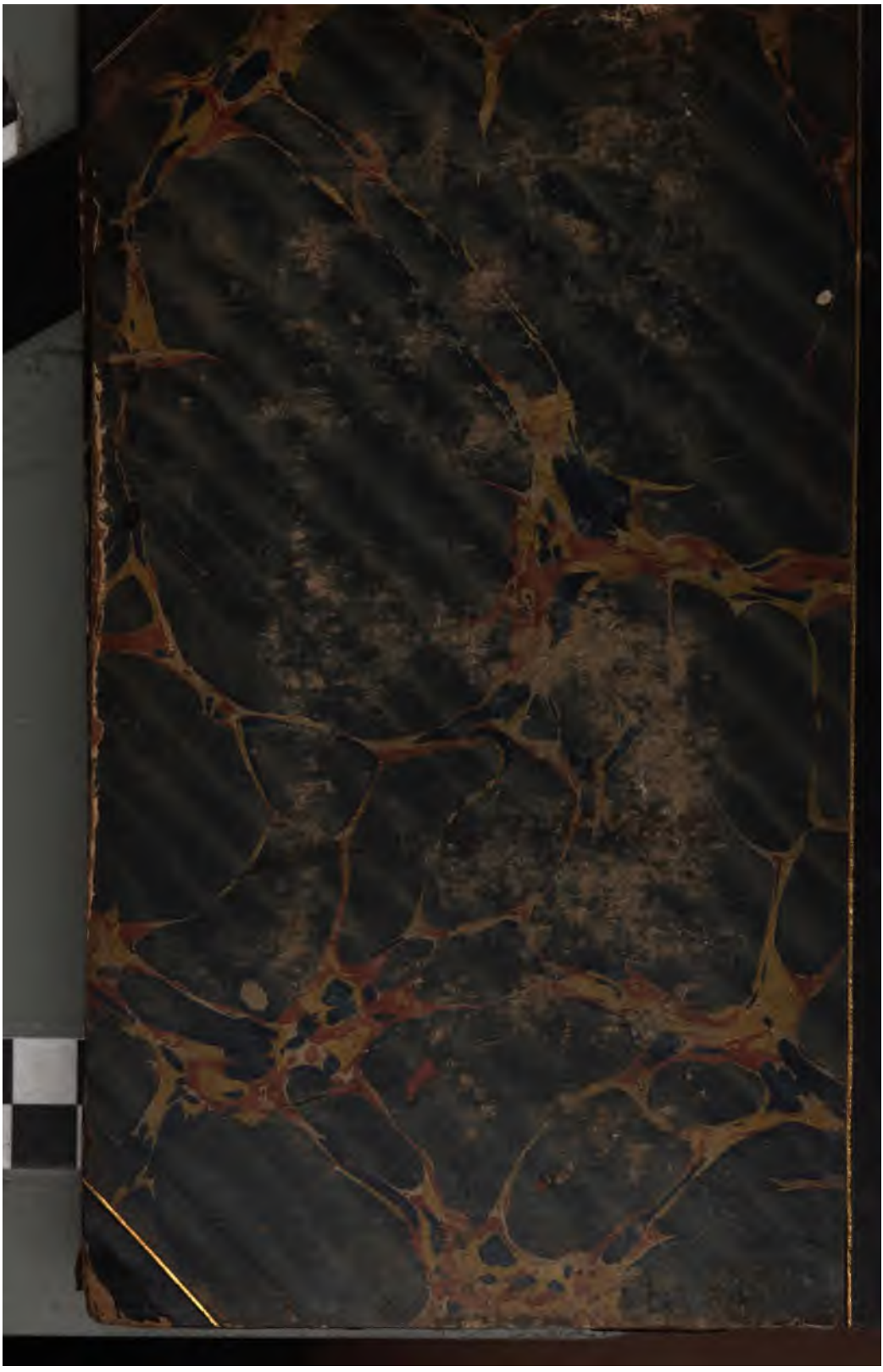
Parishes, 7.
Parkhurst Forest, 12.
Population, 8.
Principal Towns, 17.
Priory, Sir Nash Grose, 93.

Q.

Quarr Abbey, 38, 81.

R.

Rocks in Freshwater Bay, 56.
Routes of the Island, 165.
Ryde, 30.

S.

Sandown Bay and Fort, 156, 157.
——— Cottage, the late Mr. Wilkes, 158.
Seagrove, 95, 157.
Shanklin Chine, 116, 121.
Shalfleet Church, 74.
Soil, 8.
Signal Posts, 26.
Situation, 2.
St. Boniface, T. Bowdler, Esq. 109.
St. Catherine's Hill, 56, 65, 97, 127.